

Discovering information systems in the community

Students visit different services in their local community to identify and discover the various types of information systems that assist them to function.

1 – 2 HOURS

MEDIUM

AGES 8 – 10+

ACTIVITY TYPE: EXPLORATION



Image: [Pixabay](#)

You will need:

- [‘Information systems in your community’ sheet](#)
- Pencil
- Camera (optional)
- Clipboard (optional)



Image: [Pixabay](#)

About the activity:

This activity will take your family on an exploration of different services in your community. At each different location, children will find and identify an information system in the environment. They will describe the role this system plays in helping the service function and explain what might happen if this information system wasn't in place.

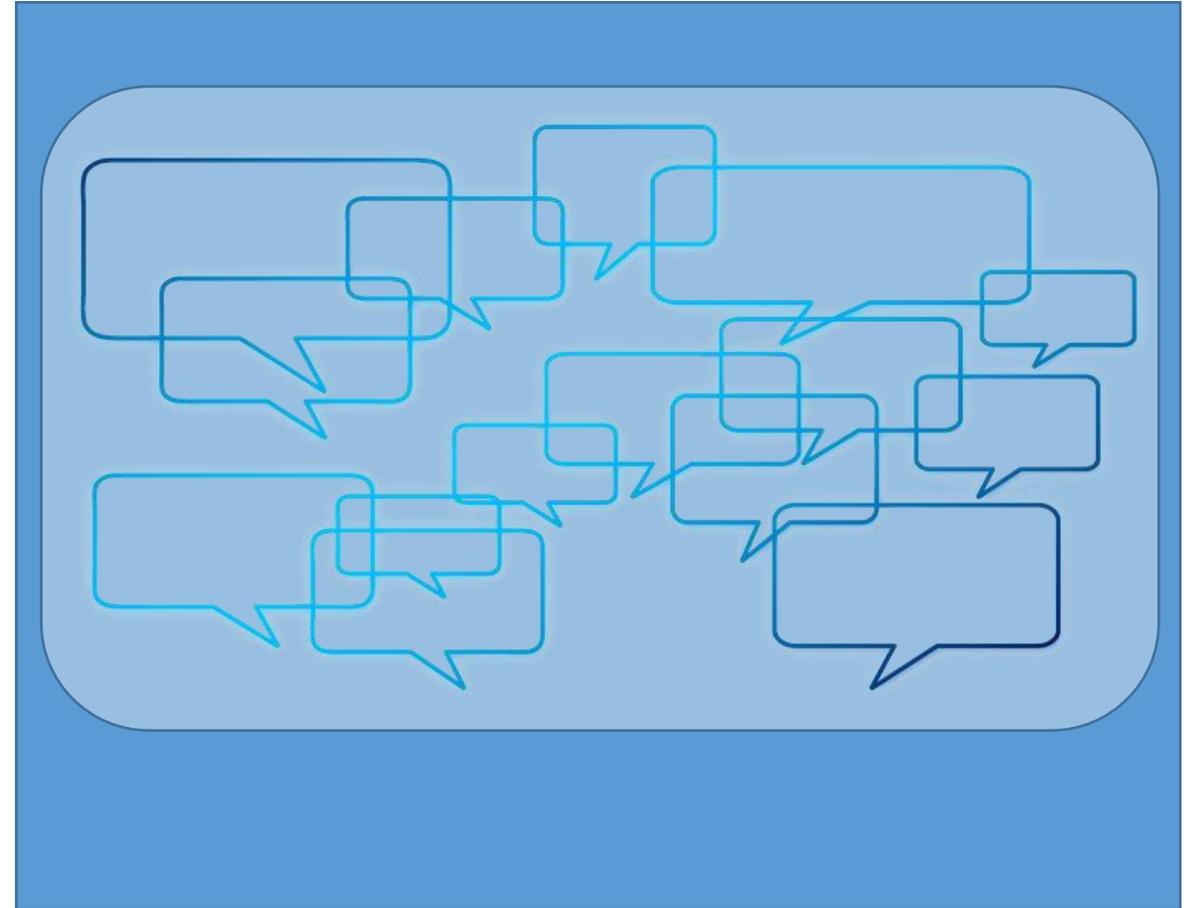


Image: [Pixabay](#)

Information System, what's that?

- As the Australian Curriculum states, “an information system is a combination of digital hardware and software *components (digital systems), data, processes and people that interact to create, control and communicate information.*” ([Australian Curriculum: Technologies glossary](#))
- An information system is generally made up of 4 elements – hardware, software, telecommunication and a database. In addition to these elements, often there needs to be a human involved to help set up or run the system.
- Some examples of everyday information systems are ATMs, traffic lights, eBay or payroll systems.



Image: [Pixabay](#)

Let's get started...

1

- Before leaving to visit different types of services in your local area, talk about information systems.
- Brainstorm some examples of information systems together.

Good tip: Take a look at the [‘Information Systems, what’s that?’](#) page before you begin the discussion.

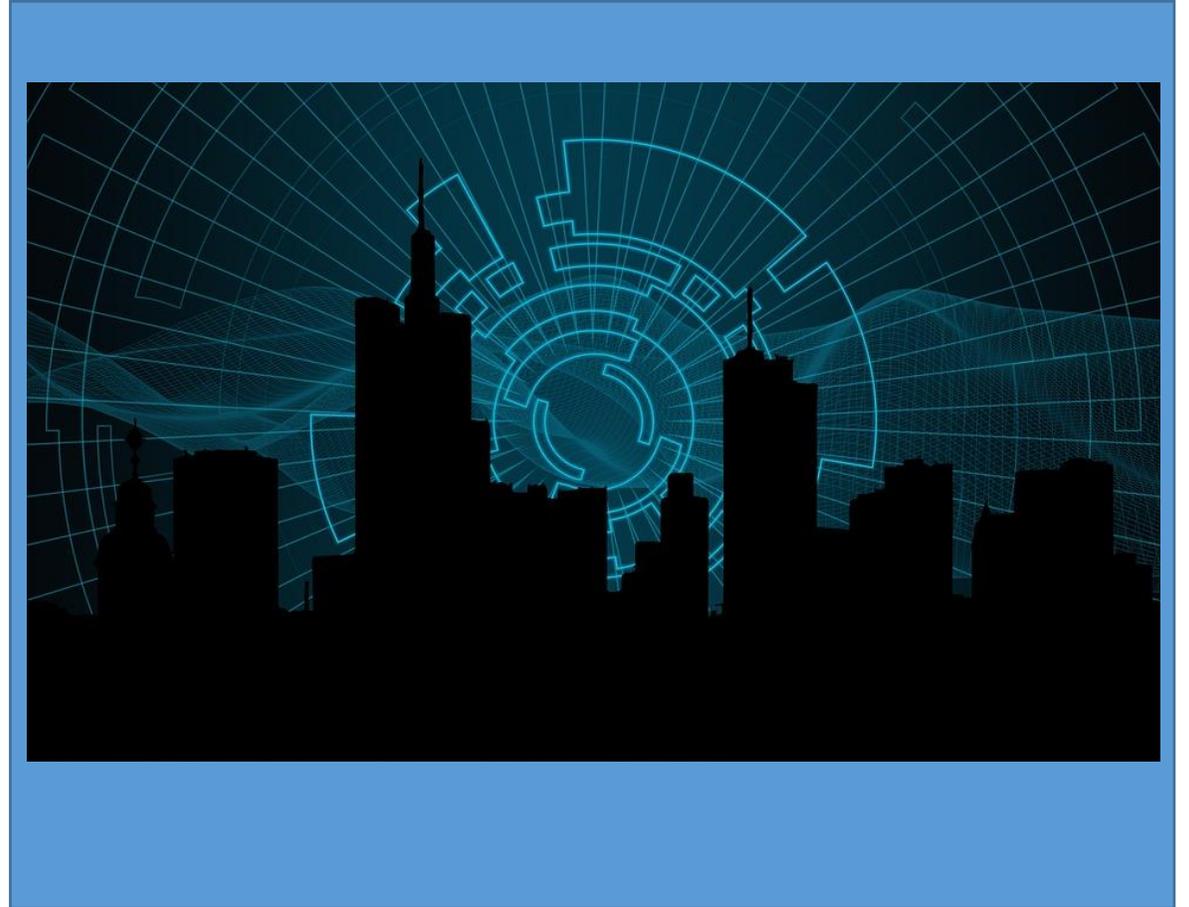


Image: [Pixabay](#)

What's next ...

2

- Visit one of the locations on the list in your local community, e.g. the library.
- Look around in the venue to try and identify an information system that is being used e.g. the library catalogue.

Good tip: Take a camera or clipboard and pencil with you to help record your findings.

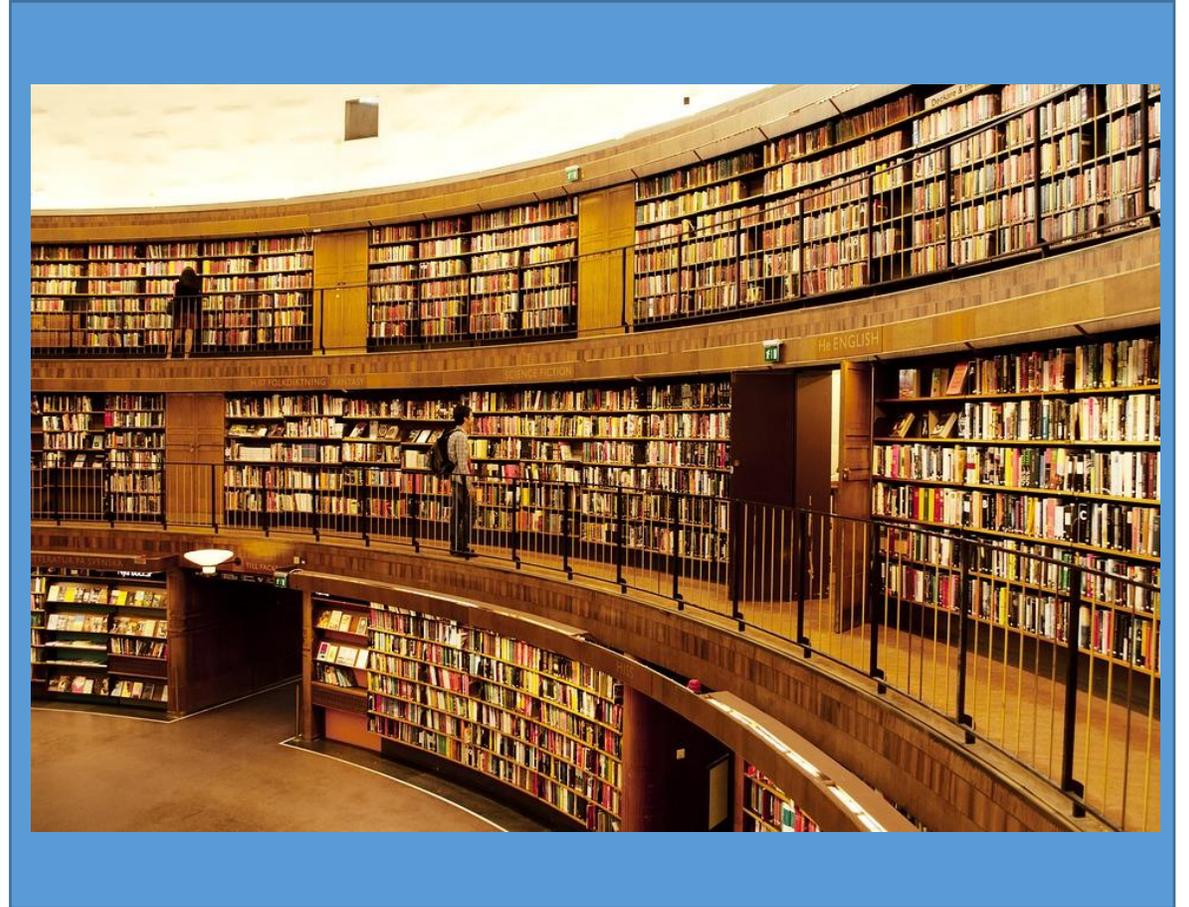


Image: [Pixabay](#)

What's next ...

3

- Once you have identified an information system used at the location, talk with your child about how this information system helps the service function.
- Also discuss what might happen if this information system was not in place.

Good tip: Use the recording sheet or take a short video to help record your ideas.



Image: [Pixabay](#)

Congratulations...

3

- Repeat steps 1 and 2 until you have visited all the listed locations in your neighbourhood.
- Challenge yourself to think of another place in your community which is not on the list that may have an information system.



Image: [Pixabay](#)

Resources

- The worksheet shown on the right has been prepared for you to take out and complete during your exploration.
- Alternatively, feel free to create your own way of recording your findings during the investigation.

Please note: a regular sized PDF version can be downloaded [here](#).

Information Systems in our Community

Visit some or all of these locations in your community and identify the information system that exists in this environment.

Location	Information system	How does this information system help others in the community?	What would happen if this information system was not there?
Library			
Train Station			
Intersection			
Near schools (Hint: Aids road safety)			
Supermarket			
Bus Stop (some)			
Public Toilets (some)			

The last row has been left blank. Can add another venue in your community that uses another information system?

Why we are learning about this ...

The term Information System refers to a “combination of digital hardware and software *components (digital systems), data, processes and people that interact to create, control and communicate information.*”

Source: [Australian Curriculum: Technologies glossary](#)

It is important for students to know what an information system is to help them understand how each of the elements work together. It is also important that they know the role each different system plays in our society.

Visit the [Sequencing the curriculum](#) section of the Digital Technologies Hub to find out more.