Citizen Literacy is an adult literacy development program (https://citizenliteracy.com/), originating in a community education initiative in Glasgow. It is also an interdisciplinary applied research project that aims to create and freely share digital learning resources to support adult literacy development (reading and writing). Our resources feature handwriting and voice recognition to facilitate user data entry to complete exercises, with AI enhancements.

Work is progressing rapidly, currently funded by the Nesta Innovation Foundation and the Ufi Charitable Trust, in association with the DfE in England. In the UK 15% of the working age population have very low levels of literacy [1]. This has a profound effect on self-confidence, life chances, and economic productivity, as well as social cohesion.

Our influences are varied and include: The work of Paulo Freire. The Frugal Innovation Movement. The learning and design sciences including Diana Laurillard [2], Don Norman, and Ken Friedman [3] and Ezio Manzini [4]. Discussions of the ability of information technology to support social and economic change by Michael Hardt, Tony Negri and Paul Mason [5]. Recent research by Norm Friesen investigating the relation between technology and literacy over the ‘long durée’ has been an important influence [6].

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

John Casey is a Senior Learning Technologist at City of Glasgow College. He started his academic career studying for a joint degree in Maths and Physics but changed direction and ended university with a degree in Irish and Russian literature. His work on the ergonomics of room design was adopted by the Saltire Centre at Glasgow Caledonian University. While working at Stirling University in the early 2000’s John created 'The Instructional Media Programme' that was delivered to FE lecturers in Scotland. He was later invited to deliver the course to postgraduate student teachers at Cambridge University, Homerton College.

John is a published author in the field of technology and education, and had led and managed a number of R&D projects in this area. While working at Central St. Martins Art College in London, his analysis of economics trends in open education was referenced in a UK government report. John’s skills have also led him to occasional work in the music industry with diverse groups from Joe Strummer to the Shetland Music Archive. John maintains an occasional blog at https://geronimoscadillac.com.

Diane Gardner is the Curriculum Head for Widening Access and Community in City of Glasgow College and the subject expert lead for Citizen Literacy. She started volunteering to teach English to asylum seekers who had started arriving in Glasgow in 2000. This quickly led to Adult Literacy volunteering and within a couple of years she had gained a number of qualifications which led to her gaining employment with a range of services teaching ESOL and Adult Literacy. Two years’ permanent employment at Glasgow Simon Community where she built on her Community Learning and Development skills led to an opportunity to teach part time in Glasgow College of Nautical Studies. This post quickly became permanent and after gaining a TQFE followed by a BA in Personal Development at University of Dundee she became the Senior Lecturer for ALN and Community. Diane developed City Phonics, driven by the success of her learners and by the magic moments she continually witnesses in class when previous non
– readers, correctly read out their own sentences. She has two cats, two amazing daughters and one husband. Her spare time is spent singing in Glasgow School of Art choir (Sop 2), gardening or in church.

Wolfgang Greller is Professor for Learning Innovation and Multilingualism at the Vienna University of Education. He has been working in the field of Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) for nearly 30 years in a variety of roles, including senior management and research. Wolfgang has been involved in a number of large international R&D projects from inception to completion, which connects him to wide international networks in Science and Research on learning and technology. His professional path focussed on open and distant learning, Open Education and OERs, learning networks, adult education, and over recent years increasingly Learning Analytics. After a period as Vice-Principal for Research and Quality Assurance, Wolfgang is now active as a lecturer in teacher education. Therefore, his applied research efforts are practically oriented to improve education at all levels, but also looks at promoting lifelong learning in ubiquitous and informal contexts using self-regulated learning strategies.