

People Do Complicated Things Together¹ - Technology Paradigms in Education

Education Technology Paradigms

Traditionally social and cultural shifts were the main drivers for explaining the movement of education paradigms. Today, developments in technology are playing an ever more important role in explaining these paradigm shifts. So, how should schools assess the use of technology to support their preferred pedagogy?

If schools are to take advantage of digital technologies to address the key challenges of the new millennium, computers, post PC devices and digital networks are not enough. Schools need to support students to develop new literacies around participatory media. A skillset often termed as transliteracy is defined as the ability to read, write and interact across a wide range of platforms, tools and media from print, TV, radio, film and online social networks. Active economic participants in the knowledge economy will be those who are skilled and proficient in the use and application of participatory technology and new media.

Transliteracy

Not all students have access to nor can they afford the latest technologies that pervade our lives. So if schools are to promote greater equity, they have a responsibility to provide their students with greater access to technologies to develop and nature literacy in the use of new and emerging technologies. In order to overcome this obstacle schools will need to foster new financial models that promote greater access to new technologies. It is very much an issue for a school's senior leadership team rather than for a single advocate of ICT in a school.

Schools need to adopt and promote technologies that promote wider participation. Participative technologies enable schools to nurture and promote new literacies, all of which are essential if learners are to become active participants in their school, local community and in time, within the wider economy.

The emergence, development and the ultimate rise to social and cultural prominence of new technologies means that those schools who actively promote and practice the new digital literacies will be those that ultimately define and shape current and future education paradigms.

**For Further Information
Contact Aftab Hussain**

Web: <http://www.aftabhussain.com>

Email: info@aftabhussain.com

Phone: 07889 904 500

1. A phrase from Howard Rheingold at the University of California.