

Action Research Proposal Plan

by Adam Halemano

Research Purpose

What is the problem you want to address?

I would like to "Examine the effectiveness and impact of digital mobile tablets as a viable and useful learning tool within a college classroom setting."

What outcome do you hope to achieve with this project?

I would like to provide evidence (via research studies) that the use of digital mobile tablets within the classroom setting will become standard practice as an effective and impactful learning tool.

Context of the Problem

What evidence do you have that there is something that needs changing in your locus of control?

Numerous research studies, technology articles, and firsthand experience (by educators across the country), in the use of digital mobile tablets within a classroom setting, show how intuitive and interactive devices such as the Apple iPad produce measurable results that impact and improve learning in the areas of effectiveness, performance, efficacy, and quality of experience.

What can you find from reading background literature that may help you plan your intervention?

Will locate research articles that show quantitative metrics in the form of objective analysis of digital mobile tablets illustrating positive success stories, investigative reports, and participant surveys.

What makes you think your idea is a good one?

Citation: Hwang, G., Wu, P., Ke, H. (2011). An interactive concept map approach to supporting mobile learning activities for natural science courses, *Computers & Education*, 57(4), 2272-2280.

Notes: This academic journal illustrates the results of an experiment that proves to enhance learning attitudes and improve student achievements

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Annotated Bibliography

Gwo-Jen Hwang, Po-Han Wu, and Hui-Ru Ke are academic graduates from three different prestigious universities in the western pacific island group of Taiwan. While their united approach to this research study is very compelling in terms of demonstrating the effectiveness of technology, as a supplemental tool for supporting mobile learning activities for natural science courses, there was nothing conveyed that would suggest partiality (for or against) the use of technology as an educational tool. The findings in this article suggest a notable difference in terms of the learning achievements and learning attitudes of both the experimental and control groups for this study. Within this study, the use of an interactive concept-map oriented mind tool remediation mechanism (ICM3) is contrasted against the traditional concept map approach. The statistical results from the experiment study strongly indicate a significant learning advantage, proving that the ICM3 approach toward instant assessment and remediation is an effective pedagogic method of improving learning within the scope of field related courses. This case study article presents an empirical view of the topic and a foundation for implementing digital technologies within mobile learning activities.

Citation: Kagohara, D. M., Sigafos, J., Achmadi, D., O'Reilly, M., & Lancioni, G. (2012). Teaching Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders to Check the Spelling of Words. *Research In Autism Spectrum Disorders*, 6(1), 304-310.

Notes: This academic journal discusses a recent study that suggests a positive correlation between autistic children and the use of a digital mobile device

Annotated Bibliography

This well-written article is a collaborative effort penned by five academic individuals from different parts of the globe. The intent for this editorial piece is to discuss the positive findings of a recent study aimed at addressing two participants with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The article is as much a social commentary as it is a revealing case study. The authors successfully utilized a rich pool of primary and secondary resources as a method of conveying the prudence and importance associated with the utilization of digital mobile devices (iPad) within a classroom setting for students with social constraints and learning impediments. Hailing from Universities in New Zealand, Italy, and the United States, with academic backgrounds in Educational Psychology and Educational Risk Prevention, this global coalition provides a convincing argument in favor of

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mobile digital devices and its effectiveness as a pedagogical tool. A wide range of positive examples helps to illustrate increases in social interactions, academic achievements, self-esteem, and self-efficacy. Catering to quantitative and qualitative analysis, this article is exceptionally persuasive in both presentation and content.

Citation: Nelson, L. L., Arthur, E. J., Jensen, W. R., & Van Horn, G.(2011) . Trading textbook for technology. *Phi Delta Kappan*, 92(7), 46-50.

Notes: This article discusses the pros and cons of electronic textbooks.

Annotated Bibliography

Can technology help students be more engaged? This article discuss the process and benefits of replacing textbooks with digital media and how technology can provide students with multiple representation to promote participation and interest. The authors examined the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation (BCSC) process of replacing textbooks with digital media via creating a Curriculum Loft - "a storage and sharing platform where teachers can place lesson plans, study guides, rubric, and other classroom information" (p. 48). The transition process also included the adoption of a digital database - NetTreckker. NetTreckker enables students to access reliable up-to-date audible and visual information online. A couple of years after the transition from "text to digital" (p. 48) the BCSC students were asked to complete an online survey about there learning in the digital platform. Results from the survey gave positive support for using digital media to enhance students' engage. The authors also noted that strong support from administration, technology department, and a well-designed professional development are needed to adopt the digital platform successfully. Overall, this article provided a thorough discussion about the process of replacing textbooks with digital media.

Citation: Lamb, A. & Johnson, L. (2011). Nurturing a new breed of reader. *Teacher Librarian*, 39(1), 56-63.

Notes: This article discusses how technology is changing the way children read and learn.

Annotated Bibliography

The authors examine five real-world issues for school libraries including devices, resources, skills, attitudes, and approaches: 1-Quality content is more important than cool tools. 2-Availability of e-books and devices are exploding. 3-Interactive

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reading increases comprehension. 4-Students prefer and enjoy electronic reading. 5-Current best practices of teaching reading can be transformed/adapted to electronic means, rather than being abandoned. The preference and attitude of this generation of young learners have implications for higher education teaching in the near future. The digital natives will soon become college students.

Instructional Intervention

Briefly, what are you going to do to fix the issue you identified above?

Provide more exposure to those administrators, educators, and departments who are uninformed as to the progressive, viable, and prospective potential for digital mobile tablets within their schools.

How will technology help improve the situation?

Given the technology is the subject topic, the use of teacher-based blog sites, web videos, and countless online testimonials could prove useful in making evident the importance for digital mobile tablets within the classroom setting.

Estimated Time Frames:

Day 1: Begin pre-test and Module 1

Day 2: Begin Module 2

Day 3: Begin Module 3 and 4

Day 4: Begin post-test and evaluation survey

Data Gathering Tools for Evaluation

Observing & documenting situations?

An observational study would be very useful in gathering qualitative metrics for effective evaluation.

Interviews or focus groups?

The use of interviews and focus groups can help to gather both positive and negative feedback regarding the use of digital mobile tablets within the classroom setting.

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Survey Questionnaires?

This method of data gathering can be very effective when presented in a Likert-scale format. Participants are given an opportunity to provide anonymous feedback on questions designed for quantitative measuring of personal opinions and perspectives regarding the use of mobile digital tablets.

Data Analysis

How will you summarize the data you collect?

I would break data collected into summative categories (i.e. performance, effectiveness, efficiency, efficacy, et al.) This would provide a presentable format that can be easily understood by the prospective audience. Within each category, I would provide illustrative graphs for those metrics that are measurable and quantifiable.

Conclusion

Why is this important to do?

I believe digital technology is the future of education in spite of pessimistic and myopic-minded perceptions of what an educational classroom setting is, and how it should be approached. For many traditionalists, the use of progressive technology somehow deprives them, in my opinion, of an instructional foundation that they are all too familiar with, which makes for an uncomfortable feeling of inadequacy and competency. Putting the umbra of fear and frustration behind, I believe it is time to break the conventional mold and improve the current status quo of learning.

Who is the audience that might want to know about this?

The target audience for this action research project would be district superintendants, administrators, teachers, parents, and vested stakeholders within the community.