

Technology Trends in Education

Summary

Educators have become more proficient in their use of technology and have a greater sense of efficacy when applying technology in the classroom after emerging from the pandemic. The EdWeek Research Center reports that 49% of educators feel their ability to effectively use technology notably increasing (Klein, 2021).

The growth of technology in education offers many benefits ranging from increased access to learning opportunities (Cloete, 2017), to ease of workflow and more accessible content (Das, 2018), to prepare for real-life work and access to a larger variety of resources (Brown, 2019). Accompanying those opportunities are challenges relating to equitable access, appropriate training (Das, 2018), and screentime (Brown, 2019).

Current Technology - Social Media



Video

Video is growing more relevant in instruction given the rise of blended, flipped, and online instruction (Roblyer and Hughes, 2019). YouTube provides access to many educational videos and channels like National Geographic, Khan Academy and more.



Podcast

Podcasts have grown more popular behind video use in the classroom. Podcasts provide yet another means for students to access content, one that provides more flexibility than many other means (Kaplan et al., 2020).



Blog

Blogs are a place for people to share their thoughts, understandings, and learnings. Students can find their voice and increase their literacy skills by publishing their writings and sharing them with specific or public audiences (Roblyer and Hughes 2019).



Microblog

Microblogging is what happens on Twitter and Instagram. Users can hashtag topics and search for topics by hashtags. The reach these sites have continues to grow. For students, this can be a place to search for experts, share announcements, and participate in conversations (Roblyer and Hughes 2019).

Rising Technologies and Examples



Artificial Intelligence:

Microsoft Reading Progress

Microsoft Reading Progress is a reading fluency tool. It uses AI technology to listen to the students' reading, track fluency, identify and classify errors, and coach students to improve (Microsoft, 2022).



Virtual Reality:

ClassVR

VR has the possibility to improve student engagement, boost retention, improve student learning, develop collaboration, and increase empathy by immersing students in the experience and bringing the abstract to life (Avantis, 2022). Students don't just read about Egypt, they walk through the pyramids. They don't just look at a molecule drawing, but find their way around the elements.



Advantages

- increased access to content and learning opportunities
- interactive experiences that provide personalized feedback in real-time
- accessibility improvements



Disadvantages

- equitable access to content due to a lack of resources
- amount of screentime and distractions
- lack of training and troubleshooting abilities

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As we move forward, new technologies will continue to emerge and develop. There are always advantages and disadvantages to new resources; understanding how these new technologies affect student learning will be key to their adoption and transformation of the learning landscape.

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