Indispensable Resources for Ed Tech Professionals

By Kate Conley

Subject: Professional development

Audience: Technology coordinators, technology integration specialists, technology facilitators, administrators, teachers, teacher educators

Standards: NETS•T V; NETS•A I, III (http://www.iste.org/standards/)
Becuase the field of educational technology is so broad and dynamic, it is extremely difficult to find time to keep up with the best practices, current research, and innovative ideas. In fact, that you found the time to read this article is a minor miracle in itself.

In an effort to help you keep up your knowledge of the field and to determine some of the most interesting and useful resources to date, we at L&L asked our large body of experts—ISTE members, volunteers, board and committee members, advocate network, and readers—to send us their top five essential readings and resources. Their responses provided a wealth of reference material. In fact, they suggested so many resources that we divided them into three categories and will deliver them to you across three issues of the magazine. Many of the suggested resources could fit into more than one category, but for the sake of space, we organized them as follows:

Part 1 includes resources in the field of Educational Technology and its inclusion in education. Part 2, in the April 2004 issue, will include resources for Leadership. Part 3, in the May 2004 issue, will cover resources for Technology Integration.

Don Hall, CIO for the Kent School District in Washington and L&L’s For Tech Leaders columnist, put it well by saying that regardless of where they are positioned within the hierarchy of their organizations, educational technology leaders will bring the most value to the field and to their jobs “if they are schooled in the instructional, strategic, technological, and political frames. They also need to balance their libraries with quick-hit information they can read on the run and material that requires deeper reflection and inquiry.”

What Debbie Denise Reese, PhD, educational researcher at the Center for Educational Technologies at Wheeling Jesuit University, said about her suggested resources applies equally well to the whole collection:

These publications represent some of the finest insights of the finest minds of the last century as they reach on into the present one. The perceptive reader, one who can integrate across diverse conceptual strands and discourses, will delight in a discovery of convergence in theory and practice.

The L&L staff hopes you’ll delight in discovering (or perhaps rediscovering) these resources and that they will help balance out your personal and professional libraries.

**Educational Technology Resources Articles & Reports**


**About Fool’s Gold**, Richard Alan Smith, PhD, lecturer in instructional technology at the School of Education at University of Houston—Clear Lake, said:

Most educational technologists hate this book. However, it nevertheless is essential reading that will gain the unbiased reader a new perspective on how money could be spent for instruction for young children in ways that would provide important gains without large-scale investments in technology.


Glen Bull, PhD, Ward Professor of Education in the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia, placed the article by Hank Becker on his current list of recommended readings for two reasons, he says:

1. It’s a textbook case on how to conduct longitudinal research (of which we have all too little) on a national scale, and (2) it challenges us to think about characteristics of exemplary technology-using teachers—an important consideration if we’re going to become more effective in development of future exemplary teachers (of which we also have all too few).

[Papert] provided rationale and description of educational technologies that apprentice young minds in the thinking of big thoughts. These tools allow ordinary minds to think like geniuses.”

—Debbie Denise Reese, PhD, Wheeling Jesuit University


Books


Talbot Bielefeldt, director of Research & Evaluation at ISTE, in suggesting The Flickering Mind and Silicon Snake Oil (next page) said, “Certainly anyone who is going to be in the position of defending a technology program against its critics should have a mastery of the opposing view.”


About Papert’s work, Reese had this to say:

In 1968 Paul Drucker wrote that “teaching is … the only traditional craft in which we have not yet fashioned the tools that
make an ordinary person capable of superior performance.” With Mindstorms, Papert met that challenge. He provided rationale and description of educational technologies that apprentice young minds in the thinking of big thoughts. These tools allow ordinary minds to think like geniuses.


**Web Sites**

Alan November: http://www.anovember.com/

Apple Classrooms of Tomorrow: http://www.apple.com/education/k12/leadership/acot/history.html


CEO Forum on Education and Technology: http://www.ceoforum.org

enGauge: http://www.ncrel.org/engaue/. This NCREL site is designed to help districts and schools plan and evaluate the systemwide educational technology use.

From Now On (Jamie McKenzie): http://www.fno.org/

National Education Technology Plan (NETP): http://www.nationaledtechplan.org/. According to the Web site, “The NETP for the U.S. Department of Education is being developed as part of a long-range national strategy and guide for using technology effectively to improve student academic achievement—either directly or through integration with other approaches to systemic reform.”


**Periodicals**

Educause: http://www.educause.edu/pub/

EduTopia: http://www.glef.org

eSchoolNews: http://www.eschoolnews.com

Journal of Computing in Teacher Education: http://www.iste.org/jcte

**More To Come**

We hope you’ll find these resources useful and that we have sparked some thought about your own list of essential readings.

Maybe you found an old favorite, came across one that is just what you need, or think we missed one. Let us know! We always want to hear from the experts, and our readers are our experts. Drop us a line at letters@iste.org.

As Smith put it “not everyone might agree with what is in the articles, but they should have knowledge and understanding of their contents.”

Look for resources on Leadership in the April 2004 issue and on Technology Integration in May 2004.

---

**L&L’s editor, Kate Conley, taught English and writing at the secondary and community college levels for eight years before pursuing a career in journalism. She holds a BA in English from the University of the Pacific and an MS in journalism from the University of Oregon.**