

## **Editorial: Technology Integration, Student Productivity and Use of Mobile Apps**

**Denise Gaspard-Richards**

**The University of the West Indies, Open Campus, Trinidad and Tobago**

Best wishes to our readers as you browse Volume 15, Issue 3 of the *International Journal of Education and Development using Information and Communication Technology (IJEDICT)*. In this Issue we present articles from or about India, Nigeria and Iran.

In this our third issue for 2019, we present four articles in our Refereed Articles section and one article in our Research in Progress section, respectively

The authors of our first article in the Refereed Articles section discuss a model for assessing the impact of new IT-based services on students' productivity. Azadeh Eslamian, Lila Rajabion, Bitu Tofighi and Amir Hossein Khalili assess the validity of a model for assessment of students' productivity. Their results indicate that four variables - digital technology acceptance, attitudes toward technology, cloud-based services and capacity of IT-based systems - have a significant influence on students' productivity.

Moving from the potential of IT based services for student productivity, Colleen Carraher Wolverton and John Tanner, posit that with an increasing number of online courses being offered at universities, and with organizations also expanding the use of technology to facilitate communication, students should focus on learning public speaking skills in a digital setting. In this article, the authors propose the use of synchronous online discussions to develop the important skill of effective online professional communication and ameliorate students' fear of digital public speaking. The authors conclude that facilitating the development of skills to improve their public speaking ability in online settings, could potentially better prepare graduates for career success in the digital age.

In the article entitled, *Analysing the Nigerian Teacher's Readiness for Technology Integration*, Eloho Ifinedo, Mirka Saarela and Timo Hämäläinen note that technology integration promises a better quality of education, but this presents a challenge for teachers in a developing country like Nigeria. The authors consider the TPACK framework in determining readiness of teachers. Their findings indicate that the teachers' technological, pedagogical, and technological pedagogical knowledge are the most significant predictors of their TPACK.

Continuing on the theme of better preparation of graduates, Subair S. 'Tayo, Solomon Temitope Adebola and Deborah Oreoluwa Yahya examine social media usage among undergraduates vis-à-vis its influence on their studies at the Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria. The authors found that social media platforms the students used most were WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, with usage mainly for socialisation, information, and academic purposes. However, Internet addiction and distraction were found to be the major influences of social media on undergraduate studies.

In our Research in Progress section, S. Aravindh Kumar and C. Karthikeyan in an article on the *Status of Mobile Agricultural Apps in the Global Mobile Ecosystem*, explore the scenario of mobile agricultural applications that are available via various platforms and highlight the challenges for upscaling of mobile agricultural apps. The authors also highlight additional contexts for the

strengthening of mobile agricultural applications, and the factors that developers and agricultural experts must be mindful of when designing new mobile applications, They advocate for user friendly apps for farmers in the areas of advisory services and education.

Thank you to all of our authors and the members of the Peer Review Panel for your unstinting efforts that ensure our journal can continue to maintain the standards we have set. We look forward to the continuing support of potential authors and our reviewers and take the opportunity to remind potential authors of our journal guidelines that should be observed when submitting articles for publication. Potential authors are advised to review the guidelines carefully as this will better facilitate our review process and the timely publication of articles.

Denise Gaspard-Richards  
Chief Editor, IJEDICT

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