

## **Editorial: Adoption, utilisation and evaluation of knowledge tools and resources**

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Welcome to Volume 7 Issue 2 of the International Journal of Education and Development using Information and Communication Technology (IJEDICT).

IJEDICT concentrates on articles concerned with the adoption and evaluation of knowledge tools and resources, especially in developing contexts. This issue brings articles from or about China, India, Kenya, Nigeria, Turkey, UK, USA, and Zimbabwe.

In this issue of IJEDICT, Lazarus Makewa, Elizabeth Role and Richard Nyamboga report of their study of "Teacher evaluation of the Principal's leadership characteristics related to computer studies implementation in Rongo District, Kenya". The findings imply that computer studies implementation in secondary schools does not necessarily depend on leadership or personal characteristics. Possible further research areas related to technology leadership are suggested: the influence of contextual factors on leadership, technology leadership as viewed from perspectives of different stakeholders, and relationships among various leadership factors.

In the article "Levels of participation in ICT training programmes, computer anxiety and ICT utilization among selected professionals", Rafiu Olatoye reports on the results from a study of four hundred and seventy seven respondents from four different professions in Ogun State, Nigeria namely teaching, broadcasting, medical and banking. Bank workers use ICT most and are also least anxious about computers. There is a significant positive relationship between levels of participation in ICT programmes and computer utilization. The author concludes that organisations should do more to invest in ICT training so as to enhance productivity.

The research by Crispen Bhukuvhani, Nicholas Zezekwa and Gladys Sunzuma for their article "Students' preparedness to integrate ICT tools and resources for the learning of Organic Chemistry concepts in the District of Masvingo, Zimbabwe" surveyed one hundred A' Level students' views on the availability of ICT tools and resources. The study revealed students had no ready access to computers; computer usage for learning purposes and other uses was relatively low; and, schools had no Computer Aided Instruction (CAI) software. The researchers recommend that it must not only be the role of the teacher to encourage for the increased use of ICT tools but all stakeholders (parents, government, industry) to realise fruits from this noble endeavour.

"The effect of webBlog based instruction on the metacognition levels of preservice teachers" is the topic of the research by Brhan Akpunar. The study was carried out on 152 (76 being the experimental group, 76 control group) student teacher candidates having pedagogical formation education at Firat University Faculty of Education in 2010-2011 academic year. Throughout the experiment, the experimental group was taught using webBlog-based instruction and control group was taught using traditional method (explanation, question-answer). As a result of the

analysis of the data, it was found that webBlog based instruction had a significant effect on the metacognition levels of student teacher candidates.

In the article “Development of an Intrusion Detection and Prevention Course Project Using Virtualization Technology”, Te-Shun Chou discusses a project used in a graduate course on intrusion detection and incidents response at East Carolina University. By using virtual machine technology, a virtual network infrastructure was designed for students to simulate the real world attacks in a restricted environment. The project provided students with strong theoretical knowledge and practical experience in the field of intrusion detection and incidents response. The project can be used with both on campus and distance education students.

Even though historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) play a crucial role in ensuring higher education for black students in the USA, traditionally they are equipped with inferior technology, fewer resources, and lower budgets than other universities. Students at HBCUs should, therefore, try to optimize the use of these minimal resources in order to compete with others. In their article “A case study on awareness, willingness and utilization of resources by students at HBCU”, Muhammed Miah and Adnan Omar investigate the students’ awareness and willingness to use available technology at HBCUs.

In their article “Free, cheap, easy and effective: Knowledge management strategies for building a global community of practice”, Roxanne Russell, Justin Parker, Nicholas Bolden and Hilary Sherman present the knowledge management activities for building an online community of practice for the India, China & America (ICA) Institute. As a non-profit with little funding, the strategies for knowledge management used by the ICA Institute have all been free or relatively inexpensive. The article covers: 1) the needs of the knowledge-based community of the ICA Institute; 2) explanation and evaluation of knowledge management strategies in use; and 3) gaining buy-in and maintaining solutions.

This report by Nicolás Pino James in the article “Busuu.com vs. Lang-8: Evaluating the acquisition of the writing skills”, seeks to critically evaluate and compare the websites Busuu.com and Lang-8.com with the aim of unveiling how they operate as Internet-based distance learning providers in the acquisition of writing skills. Additionally, examples of their application is given as means of further understanding the websites.

As always, the emphasis in IJEDICT is on providing a space for researchers, practitioners and theoreticians to jointly explore ideas using an eclectic mix of research methods and disciplines, and we welcome feedback and suggestions as to how the journal can better serve this community.

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