

XXXXXX Library

“Digital Device Strategy” Discussion Paper

A strategy to improve literacies (digital, information and multi-literacies) through a digital device implementation

Introduction

Digital technologies are presenting new and innovative ways to not only deliver curriculum, but to engage students by ‘tapping in’ to their existing predisposition and motivation to use a range of technology tools and devices.

To ensure the XXX Library stays abreast of these technologies and interrogates the educational ‘soundness’ of using new devices in an educational context the **Digital Device Strategy** will be implemented over the next two years.

Aim

- To develop a strategy for implementing digital delivery of the curriculum;
- To examine a range of technology tools and devices to deliver the curriculum;
- To develop a “Proof-of-concept” approach which will examine the viability of eReaders (eg Kindles) as a platform for borrowing and reading electronic books for recreational and academic purposes;
- To examine the potential value of providing an iPad suite of Applications as a supplementary curriculum resource (where iPad apps that offer unique teaching / learning resources and opportunities are identified and evaluated);
- To identify the ‘affordances (benefits) of using these devices to enhance / support curriculum delivery; and
- To determine the viability of making this a scalable strategy vs BYOD strategy in the future.

Scope of the project

While a range of devices will be examined as they are developed, the chosen devices for Stage One of strategy include e-Book Readers and iPads.

eReaders

Increasingly print-based texts are being migrated to, and created in, an eBook format both for recreational reading and formalized learning (ie textbooks etc.). As print materials become less viable (and available) it is essential that the library investigates the implications of this, not only for the purchasing of reading materials, but also the management and distribution of resources to their clientele.

Stage One – proof of concept

Using **Kindle** as the chosen device, examine the following:

- Availability of digital resources and the procedures / requirements for their purchase and licensing;

- Identify the various scenarios for storing, downloading and circulating the digital resources and implications / issues of each;
- Identify costs / funding issues so that comparisons can be made with regard to digital vs traditional resource purchases;
- Explore the opportunities for creating and distributing student-created resources; and
- Explore the potential use of these devices for storage and distribution of eTextbooks.
- Explore readers' reactions to reading on Kindle, considering impact on eyes.

Areas of Focus for eBook Strategy

Content

- Commercial publishers
- eBook websites and services
- PDF websites
- Free online eBook sources
- Open Source content
- Children's books
- iTunes, Amazon, Kindle etc

Using -

eBook publishing software ([Stanza](#), Blio)

eBook publishing websites

eBook Apps (e.g. Creative Book Builder)

Using PDF creation tools

Conversion sites

Provision to Students

For electronic access:

- To online content
- To study materials
- To novels and texts
- Revision and study notes
- Other text based materials and resources

Students' reading and literacy needs:

- Meet individual needs
- Cater to different abilities and individual differences
- Promote reading and comprehension skills
- Provide opportunities to explore and engage with text
- Provide a range of genres
- Provide literature that is contemporary and challenging

Provide equitable access to text:

- Provide alternate formats
- Differentiate texts
- Promote life-long skills

- Promote a love of reading

iPads

The iPad, and the extensive suite of applications available, provide an opportunity to explore different pedagogies and resources that are not available through the Mac iBook platform that is currently used by students and teachers in the school.

Purchasing a class set of these devices will enable the following:

- Identify if and how the use of this device and the associated Applications enhances / transforms the teaching / learning program / increase student engagement and collaboration;
- Identify what this technology provides that is not available in the current technology scenario at the College;
- Identify the key resources / Apps that will assist / enhance the delivery of the curriculum, providing for differentiation;
- Provide opportunities for staff and students to expand / deepen their capabilities and confidence in using a wide range of technologies; and
- Determine whether the iPad is a viable option for a BYOD scenario

Areas of Focus for iPad Strategy

- Identify Apps that provide rich resources and opportunities to transform the teaching/learning program;
- Identify changing pedagogies enabled by access to a class set of iPads;
- Identify issues related to identifying, purchasing, downloading and synching the iPads; and
- Identify issues related to the storage, charging and access of iPads
- Identify health issues of extended reading on back lit screen.

Recommended Device Purchase

To implement the above strategy it is suggested the following devices be purchased:

12 Kindles – these will be loaned to students.

A class set of 32 iPads (plus funds to purchase a wide range of Applications to review) – to be retained in the library and used as a class set.

Documentation to be developed

- Implementation Strategy
- Surveys and feedback for teachers and students about the use of each device
- Policies and procedures for the procurement of the devices, their management and distribution
- A review of the process and report of the outcomes of the strategy (after 1 year)

Resources related to ebook readers (FYI)

<http://heartoftheschool.edublogs.org/what-we-do/web-2-and-new-technologies/using-kindles-to-encourage-reading/>

<http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6727284.html>

[http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/slj/home/889110-312/the kindles are coming.html.csp](http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/slj/home/889110-312/the%20kindles%20are%20coming.html.csp)

<http://education.qld.gov.au/library/resource/eresources/ebooks-advice.html>

<http://mg.co.za/article/2012-10-19-e-readers-the-answer-to-textbooks>