



#36 TEACHING TO THE TEXT: TEXTBOOKS OR TECHNOLOGY?

Show notes and further reading
TX: November 2016

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The Edtech Podcast Weekly

Hello everyone!

Welcome to The Edtech Podcast Weekly. Below are your latest episode links and news.

This week's episode is a goody, covering Finland's education landscape, Angry Bird's educational games development with NASA, philosophy, and launching a new game based around particle physics!

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WHAT'S IN THIS EPISODE?

Intro:

Tipping over 20,000 downloads

Round-up of the week

Opportunity to support #TMresolutions

Content:

TEACHING TO THE TEXT: TEXTBOOKS OR TECHNOLOGY? #battleofideas debate recorded at the Barbican with

Susanna Goldschmidt, Head of Publishing, Discovery Education

Colin Hughes, Managing Director, Collins Learning

Tim Oates, Group director of assessment research and development, Cambridge Assessment

David Perks Founder and principal, East London Science School; director, the Physics Factory

José Picardo, Assistant principal, Surbiton High School

CHAIR: Harley Richardson, Director of design and development, Discovery Education

Questions raised:

Political control on textbook content

Best methods for retention of information

Can you have a favourite website like you have a favourite book?

SAMPLE QUOTES

Harley Richardson:

- Which do we need the most in the classroom: textbooks or technology?
- Textbooks or technology? We could just say a little bit of both and go home
- Many parents are concerned that mobile phones are allowed in schools

Tim Oates

- What constitutes high quality material?
 - Understand the role and the function of traditional textbooks, understand what they have meant for hundreds of years to understand what we should do now
 - Systematical control over textbooks is critical in reform
 - Textbooks support a whole range of functions
 - The best teachers around the world are those who are supportive of best quality textbooks
 - In Finland textbooks still are seen as steering mechanism for education -
- Textbooks provide a schema. They provide the shape of a subject. Digital performs differently

David Perks

- If textbooks are the answer, what is the question?
- What does a good textbook look like?
- Websites don't last, their content is ephemeral. The whole premise in which digital has been designed is ephemeral and not long-standing
- If you want to take notes use a pen, don't use a laptop because it goes in much better if you use a pen
- When kids use technology is not the same as us using it -Google doesn't teach, we do

SAMPLE QUOTES

Jose Picardo

- Textbooks and technology, rather than textbooks or technology. Both are useful, both facilitate learning
- Does a textbook need to be in print form? Cannot it be in digital form?
- Digital resources are dismissed often for the wrong reason
- What students prefer may not always be what's best for them
- Spaced studying, interleaving topics, frequent low testing have improved teaching and learning
- Pairing texts with interactive graphics to help conceptualisation
- Featuring sound and video-recordings are great for languages teaching and learning
- The focus should be on how can we make these resources work better
- What learners prefer to do often goes against what cognitive psychology tells us is best

Colin Hughes

- Digital is dynamic, is connected
- Why 14% of time in UK classrooms use any kind of digital materials at all? Maybe 14% is about right actually. For the rest of the world is about 4%
- Adapted learning platforms are going to be unbelievably useful
- It's about defining what can that particular technology do that the other can't
- The use of printed revision guides is way stronger
- Textbooks are not a substitute for quality teaching or indeed teacher knowledge

QUOTATIONS/ REFERENCES

Susanna Goldschmidt

- Comparing textbooks with tech is like comparing a theological treatise with an encyclopedia
- How could a textbook evocate for the plurality of options that now face subject teachers?
- Digital media lend themselves brilliantly to expanding horizons
- Digital activities encourage students to engage actively in what they're learning
- Technology offers tools capable of liberating teachers from drudge work allowing them to focus on the real business of teaching
- Hybrids, digital textbooks called „techbooks“ combine the substance of textbooks with the attributes of digital
- School is not just about learning what the curriculum stipulates should be learned. It's also about expanding horizons, transformative experiences.
- Textbooks or Technology? Both

This event was recorded at the #battleofideas event by the institute of ideas at the Barbican, London:

Event: <http://www.battleofideas.org.uk/2016/session/11568#.WBU6U-GLSu4>

Speakers:

Harley Richardson <https://twitter.com/harleyrich>

Tim Oates <http://www.cambridgeassessment.org.uk/about-us/who-we-are/our-leadership/tim-oates/>

Jose Picardo <https://twitter.com/josepicardoSHS>

Colin Hughes <https://twitter.com/4collinsmd>

David Perks <https://twitter.com/dperks>

Susanna Goldschmidt <https://twitter.com/smg37>

Discovery Education <https://twitter.com/DiscoveryEd>

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Cambridge Assessment https://twitter.com/Cam_Assessment

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Richard Culatta <https://twitter.com/rec54>
Surbiton High School <https://twitter.com/SurbitonHigh>
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An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth, Chris Hadfield
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Geert Hofstede <http://geerthofstede.com>

Lord Lucas: <https://twitter.com/LordLucasCD>

News:

Web Summit drinks: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-edtech-podcast-pop-up-web-summit-2016-tickets-28688349626>

Support TM Resolution in January by attending or supporting with prizes: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/teachmeet-resolutions-tickets-29086360086>

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