

Policy and Research Forums

A knowledge sharing initiative by the Office for Policy, Research and Innovation

Stephen Heppell: Teaching and Learning in the Online World

About the Forum

The Office for Policy, Research and Innovation recently hosted a face-to-face and on-line forum with Professor Stephen Heppell titled Teaching and Learning in the Online World.

In the face-to face forum Stephen shared how online technology has changed and will continue to change the world in which we live and work. He showcased and modelled the use of online tools, spaces and communities for teaching and learning. Stephen also acknowledged the importance of learner voice and student entitlement to embrace and access social technologies for learning in all contexts.

Lisa Hill, a Victorian primary school teacher who attended the forum, was inspired to share her views through her blog. Her response to Stephen's question, 'What would success for an education system of the 21st century look like?' was 'a huge increase in the number of bright and brilliant young people wanting to take up teaching as a profession and join in the adventure'. You can view Lisa's blog at: <http://lisahillschoolstuff.wordpress.com/2008/11/12/stephen-heppell-in-melbourne/>

In Victorian government schools there are a number of [illustrative examples](#) of innovative uses of technology and a range of [resources](#) available to teachers and students on the departmental website. These demonstrate how online technology is transforming pedagogy.

In the afternoon session, Stephen discussed the same topic with an online audience using Elluminate software. More than eighty people participated in the event. Issues raised and discussed included the collegiality of online collaboration. One of the participants in the online forum stated, 'This was my first Elluminate session and I feel inspired to learn more!' The recording of the session is at: <http://knowledgebank.globalteacher.org.au/2008/10/16/stephen-heppell-teaching-and-learning-in-the-online-world/>

Biography

Keynote speaker



Professor Stephen Heppell, England

Stephen founded Ultralab in the 1980s and was the guiding 'father' of a number of social networking projects.

Stephen left Ultralab to establish his own policy and learning consultancy Heppell.net which now has a portfolio of international projects including [Learnometer](#) and [HorizonTAL](#).

Stephen is Chair of Trustees to the charity [Inclusion Trust](#) with its flagship project for children excluded from school by behaviour or circumstances [Notschool.net](#) and is a board member of [Teachers.TV](#) - a UK public service TV and broadband channel for professional development of teachers.

Stephen's work is underpinned by a simple wish to make learning a little more delightful <http://rubble.heppell.net>



Every
child,
every
opportunity



Synopsis

Further reading/viewing

The references presented below invite further consideration and application of the ideas and issues Stephen raised in the forum: using online tools and communities for teaching and learning and capturing the practice of front runners in the online world. They include evidence based reports from national and international research and assessment projects and examples of practitioner research.

[Schooling Issues Digest 2001, Information and Communication Technology for Teaching and Learning](#)
This report synthesises the research on the use of ICT in schools and its impact on teaching and learning. The report highlights that when combined with effective teaching, ICT supports young people's development in literacy and numeracy, higher order thinking skills and generic skills like team work and problem solving, supportive of lifelong learning. The strategic use of ICT in contributing to whole school improvement is also discussed. <http://www.dest.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/C251724A-1E09-4954-BFBE-FDA5836375E3/4508/technology.pdf>

[ACER Research Monograph No 62 PISA 2003: Australia: ICT Use and Familiarity at School and Home 2007](#). This report presents results from the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2003, and examines the extent of access to ICT in schools, homes and other places; how familiar students nearing the end of compulsory education are with ICT and how well they feel they use the technologies that are available to them. Hungary (80%), the United Kingdom (71%), Denmark (68%) and Australia (59%) had the highest proportions of students reporting frequent computer use at school. On average, 87% of Australian students frequently used a computer at home. http://www.acer.edu.au/documents/Mono_62_PISA-ICT_Report.pdf

[How mobile phones help learning in secondary schools, Hartnell-Young, E & Heym, N, 2008, Becta, Coventry](#).
This project involved teachers as researchers in the integration of mobile phones in the curriculum. The report identifies some important ways in which mobile phones support learning, and eight key messages for schools. http://partners.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=rh&catcode=_re_rp_02&rid=15482.

The Horizon Report 2008 Edition, a collaboration between The NEW MEDIA CONSORTIUM and the EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative. This annual report describes the continuing work of the New Media Consortium Horizon project, a five-year qualitative research effort that seeks to identify and describe emerging technologies likely to have an impact on teaching and learning. <http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/CSD5320.pdf>

[Early Years In Action – ICT](#): this program shows how one nursery school in the UK embedded ICT across all areas of learning in a creative and integrated way with their three and four year olds. <http://www.teachers.tv/video/230>

[Action! Teacher Video – Laptops for Learning](#): a teacher in a school in Hampshire in the UK produced this footage to evaluate the impact on student learning and motivation through the use of laptops both in the classroom and at home. <http://www.teachers.tv/video/26701>

Further information

DEECD Research Reports

[Student Voice](#)

[Student Voice \(Issue 11\)](#)
(PDF - 202Kb)

[Personalising Education](#)

[Personalising Education \(Issue 12\)](#)
(PDF - 177Kb)

[Subscribe](#)

If you already subscribe to Research eLert you will automatically be sent Research eLert Extra.

If you would like to subscribe to Research eLert and the Extra, or to express interest in attending future Policy and Research Forums, email your contact details to: research@edumail.vic.gov.au



Every
child,
every
opportunity

