

In the midst of all this public outcry about the quality of the Education Service, it is good to know that nothing replaces a good teacher, not even the best technology.

As you or your teachers get ready for ICTLT, help them to keep in mind that **ICT is a tool not a pedagogy**. Our teachers must have the pedagogy to know where the ICT tool fits or is needed. Then they will get the most out of the conference.

For those who don't have the time to read the whole article (or are impatient with some of the local politics of the writer), I reproduce some paragraphs.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-hiltzik-20120205,0,639053.column>

Who really benefits from putting high-tech gadgets in classrooms?

How much genuine value is there in fancy educational electronics? Don't let companies or politicians fool you.

By Michael Hiltzik

February 4, 2012

- The push for advanced technology in the schoolroom then and now was driven by commercial, not pedagogical, considerations.
- How much genuine value is there in fancy educational electronics? Listen to what the experts say.
- "The media you use make no difference at all to learning," says Richard E. Clark, director of the Center for Cognitive Technology at USC. "Not one dang bit. And the evidence has been around for more than 50 years."
- Almost every generation has been subjected in its formative years to some "groundbreaking" pedagogical technology. In the '60s and '70s, "instructional TV was going to revolutionize everything," recalls Thomas C. Reeves, an instructional technology expert at the University of Georgia. "But the notion that a good teacher would be just as effective on videotape is not the case."
- Many would-be educational innovators treat technology as an end-all and be-all, making no effort to figure out how to integrate it into the classroom. "Computers, in and of themselves, do very little to aid learning," Gavriel Salomon of the University of Haifa and David Perkins of Harvard observed in 1996. Placing them in the classroom "does not automatically inspire teachers to rethink their teaching or students to adopt new modes of learning."
- "There are two big lies the educational technology industry tells," says Reeves. "One, you can replace the teacher. Two, you'll save money in the process. Neither is borne out."
- Some digital textbooks may have advantages over their paper cousins. Well-produced multimedia features can improve students' understanding of difficult or recondite concepts. But there's a fine line between an enhancement and a distraction, and if textbook producers are using movies

and 3-D animations to paper over the absence of serious research in their work, that's not progress.

Copyright © 2012, Los Angeles Times