Sandra Misic

SEYS 753 Professor Murfin

Assigment #4 Book review

Oversold and Underused: Computers in the Classroom by Cuban Larry (2001) is a book about use of the technology in classroom on the beginning the 21 century. This is summary of data exploring the availability usefulness and worth comparing to use of technology in different school districts across different grade levels of students.

Cuban starts his book by setting up the research area in Silicon Valley in California. In this area author collects data on use of technology in preschool and kindergarten level in 2 schools Benjamin co-op and George Elementary School. Data shows that use of technology is extensive in the two classrooms of Ms. Rodrigues and Mr. Hunter.

Next he explores use in Flatlands and La Montanas on high school level. The results show less of use by students. While on the college level in University of Stamford use of the computers is very much limited. As the grade increase the data shows there is greater presence of the technology yet less of its use.

At this point Cuban asks how utilized is technology and is it worth. Cuban also explores use of technology by teachers that is according to research limited to personal use more than in class. To expand his research author explores foreign language class where computers are used by teacher for evaluating and date storage.

In general Cuban takes a side step and explores not only advancement in technology and its possibilities but the way in which can be used and is it covering the price paid for it.

The book has many strengthens in creating extensive and well supported data evaluation. Collection of data is not limited to one side of use technology in classroom by students but also use it by teacher. In this way Cuban evaluated from collected data that use of the technology is not underused by students but by teachers too. Another strength of this book is Cubans imaginary suggestion based on observation of what the feature may bring. His suggestions are showing the great mind. Here lays the biggest weakness of this book. It is written in 2001. The technology advances almost daily and in that context this book is outdated. The suggestions by the author are part of today’s reality. Also the assumption that different class type may play role in amount of use of technology i.e. foreign language may not present correctly variation. The technology use in some other class for example physics may be greater and more utilized than in a language class.

However this book is excellent example how the research is done to what extent and how the data can be evaluated. In science class this is very important to learn how collected results are evaluated not only in direction of the revolution but in the ways the new thought is influencing and changing the society. Young students must know that science it exploratory and the data can be evaluated in different ways.

This book is excellent reading as how the technology used was utilized. Today’s use of technology is expanding Cubans limits of use. His creative thinking about the use to the fullness is our reality. Every student has computer and the use is not limited to “choice time” in preschool but is encouraged to be used on daily base outside the school too. Almost two decades later we are all in last two levels of technology integration of appropriation and invention is the show how farsighted Cuban thought is in this book.

Reference:

Oversold and underused: computers in the classroom, [Cuban](http://www.hup.harvard.edu/results-list.php?author=3393) L. (2001)

Review of Oversold and Underused: computers in the classroom, Lomicka L. September 2003, Language Learning & Technology, Volume 7, Number 3 pp. 42-45 <http://llt.msu.edu/vol7num3/review4/>,