

Transforming Children's Storytelling Activities in Public Libraries through Tablet Technology

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Introduction: Children's storytelling activities are commonplace in public libraries. However, story creation and sharing with/by/for children are rarely seen in the libraries. Substantial research has shown the benefits of effectively integrating technology into children's daily learning environment.



Research Questions



How does the selected Library promote its workplace learning among library staff and volunteers in order to fulfil its institutional objective of promoting early childhood learning?



How does the selected Library respond to a rapidly evolving world with new technologies for preschool children?

Research Methods

- The study was designed to enhance early childhood learning in public libraries through the use of tablet technology. During 2014-2015, the researchers applied Activity Theory to work in partnership with Tainan Children's Library in Taiwan.
- Tablet technology (i.e. iPad) was used as a catalyst to facilitate children's story creation and sharing.
- Data collection methods included interviews, observation, document analysis and ethnographic video recording.
- The analysis was object-oriented, providing a study of the collective and culturally mediated human activity (also known as 'activity system') of the Library.



Research Results

- **Reading => writing => expression:** Tablet technology enhanced preschool children's opportunities to critically think, ask questions and improvise stories (drawing upon local materials).
- **Co-creation:** Trained library staff facilitated preschool children to set a localised topic, develop the sequence of a story, select photos and edit texts, and share the story with peers.
- **Institutional challenges:** library staff and volunteers' objections to preschool children's usage of tablet technology (mainly due to children's eyesight problems, volunteers' familiarity with using physical books), lack of ICT-related skills, knowledge and resources, lack of consensus among library staff and volunteers on the organisational goals.
- **Recommendation:** "Just do it." (Interview participant)



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Story Booklets