School Network for Enhancing Student Information Literacy across the Curriculum

Ching Yin Kwok, Siu Fan Lau, PLK Chee Jing Yin Primary School, 6D Sha Kok Street, Pok Hong Estate, Shatin, N.T. Hong Kong,
Email: saryue@netvigator.com; itchan@plkcjy.edu.hk
Yin Wai Yvonne Choi, Lok Sze Chan, Xianggang Putonghua Yanxishe Primary School of Science And Creativity, Tin Fu Court, 25 Tin Sau Road, Tin Shui Wai, N.T. Hong Kong, info@xpypssc.edu.hk

Abstract: Information literacy is one of the important skills as required in 21st century. In 2005 an information literacy standard for students was released by Hong Kong Government (EMB, 2005). In this year the EDB launched the e-Learning pilot scheme and announced 21 school projects were selected. The implementation of the scheme will be spread across three academic school years from September 2011 to 2014. The goal of this session is to provide an overview of one of the selected project namely "The newfangled orbit of electronic learning – developing a conjoint network of information literacy" and show cases on how to integrate information literacy into various subject disciplines including English, Mathematics, Chinese Language and General Studies. Via the vivid examples, it is hoped that participants can understand how to uplift students' technique and aptitude in handling information through diversified learning tasks and understand the development of a coherent strategy to integrate pedagogy and assessment design in various subject disciplines to enhance student's Information Literacy skills.

Introduction

The project is co-developed by two Primary schools, Po Leung Kuk Chee Jing Yin Primary School and Xianggang Putonghua Yanxishe Primary School of Science and Creativity, with the union of four satellite schools including Po Leung Kuk Riverain Primary School, S.K.H. Kei Fook Primary School, Lei Muk Shue Catholic Primary School and Y.L. Long Ping Estate Tung Koon Primary School in Hong Kong. Moreover, numerous parties are invited to engage in the project, such as Pui Ching Middle School Macau (Primary section) for cross-border exchange, a local tertiary institute for technical consultancy, a publishing company for teaching software, two IT companies for professional sharing and networking devices as well as a consultant from a tertiary institute for academic theories. All these parties originate a professional collaborative community to evolve subject-based electronic learning platforms, teaching resources, students' portfolios and assessment systems, by upholding the framework of information literacy as the core nucleus. Through interactions and support provided by the above-mentioned parties, a significant and influential conjoint teaching network is incubated for sharing and publishing latest teaching resources and the fruitful result of the project.

The Conceptual Framework of the Project

The Centre for Information Technology in Education, University of Hong Kong (CITE) (2009), defines information literacy as eight focal dimensions. They are "define, access, manage, integrate, create, communicate, evaluate, ethical use".   These eight dimensions are directly correlated to the nine generic skills, pinpointed by the Hong Kong Curriculum Development Council (CDC 2001), which includes collaboration skills, communication skills, creativity, critical thinking skills, information technology skills, numeric skills, problem solving skills, self-management skills and study skills. Figure 1 indicates the overall conceptual framework for the implementation of IL and the linage of the nine generic skills as proposed by CDC in various subject disciplines. Through this innovative scaffold and relating the eight dimensions of information literacy to the generic skills, it undoubtedly fosters students to well-equip their learning abilities in the new century.
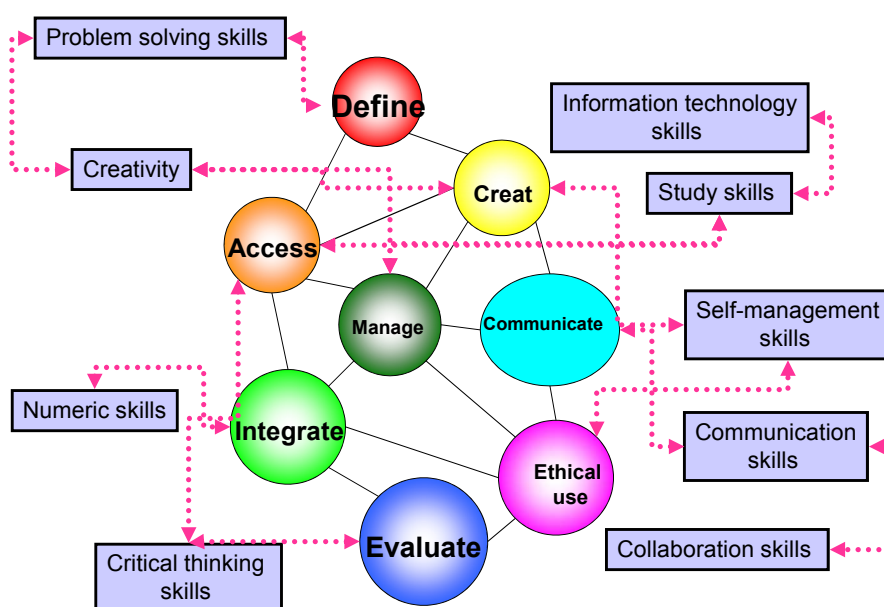
Figure 1. Overall Conceptual Framework for the Project.

This three-year project is primarily focused on the primary curriculum of P.4-P.6, in which two mentor schools and four satellite schools are amalgamated to design English, Mathematics, Chinese Language and General Studies pedagogies infused with information literacy elements collaboratively.   It is strongly believed that building up this professional learning network community would help teachers' professional growth and those developed curriculum materials will beneficial to the education community. In addition, with the provision of tertiary institute's professional expertise, we are making an effort to outline the framework of an information literacy curriculum and appropriate assessment criteria.   As a result, the practices surfaced can then be referenced by the academic circle.

Theme of the Session and Expected Outcome(s)

This CSCL practice event is to introduce this e-Learning project to the audiences and share the learning experiences in the implementation processes.

By the end of the session, the participants will
- understand how to integrate information literacy elements into English and Mathematics teaching practices and pedagogies. By means of it, they can encounter how to uplift students' technique and aptitude in handling information through diversified learning tasks
- understand the development of a coherent strategy to integrate pedagogy and assessment design in Chinese Language and General Studies to enhance student's Information Literacy skills

Session Activities—Brief Rundown of Each of the Activities to be Conducted in Sequence, with Focus, and Person(s) Involved

	Session Activities
1	*Introduction of the project*
2	*What & how the school does in electronic learning in English and Mathematics*
3	*Adoption of Information Literacy in Chinese Language & General Studies*
4	*Q & A*

References

Centre for Information Technology in Education (CITE) (2009) Development of Evaluation Tools for Assessing Students' Information Literacy and Promoting Information Literacy among Students". Retrieved September 10,2011 from http://iltools.cite.hku.hk/.

Curriculum Development Council (2001). *Learning to learn 'The way forward in the curriculum'.* Hong Kong, China: The Education Department, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.