Report: Teachers Better at Using Tech Than Digital Native Students

It's time to give up the notion that "digital natives" are more tech savvy than their teachers. According to a recent study of middle school science students and teachers, the teachers tended to be more effective technology users.

According to Shiang-Kwei Wang, an associate professor at the New York Institute of Technology, the purpose of the study was to investigate technology experiences inside and outside of school for both groups.

The primary questions were:
* Do school-age students fit the digital native profile?
* Do school-age students surpass their teachers in terms of technology use?
* What roles do teachers play in shaping students' technology experiences inside the classroom?

The research surveyed 24 middle-school teachers from New York and Utah aged 23 to 56. Student participation came from 774 eighth graders in Utah and 305 students in grades six through eight in New York. The surveys were followed by classroom observations and teacher focus group interviews.

Science teachers were chosen for their overall pioneering spirits. "They are usually the early adopters to integrate technology in labs and physical experiments, hands-on activities, field trips and data collection," the report stated. "Compared with other subject area teachers, they are more likely to engage in technology-integrated practices."

The report's conclusion: "Today's school-age learners are no more technology savvy than their teachers. Previous assumptions used to profile students as digital natives did not apply to the students in this study. In fact, teachers' technology use surpassed students whether it was inside or outside of school."

The researchers found that "students used technology outside of school for working on school projects, maintaining social networks and entertainment," but mostly for entertainment factors. Teachers showed similar patterns of usage, with greater frequency, but also tended to depend "much more on using technology to solve daily problems, to improve productivity, and as learning aids."

Wang noted that "teacher age had no impact on the kinds of technology skills they have. The gap between them and their students lies with how little opportunity students get to practice technology beyond pursuing their personal interests. In many ways it is determined by the requirements teachers place on their students to make use of new technologies and the ways teachers integrate new technologies in their teaching."

"School-age students may be fluent in using entertainment or communication technologies, but they need guidance to learn how to use these technologies to solve sophisticated thinking problems," Wang noted. "The school setting is the only institution that might create the needs to shape and facilitate students' technology experience. Once teachers introduce students to a new technology to support learning, they quickly learn how to use it."

You can read more about the findings in the journal Educational Technology Research & Development here: http://thejournal.com/articles/2014/10/22/report-teachers-better-at-using-tech-than-digital-native-students.aspx
Not for education only...

http://www.getyourguide.com/ - Things to do no matter where in the world you are!

http://www.midomi.com/ - Got a song stuck in your head but can’t remember all the words? Sing or hum it into this website and Midomi will identify it! Other fun features, too.


https://www.rememberthemilk.com/ - Never forget anything again. A great way to manage your to-do list.

Here’s How to Add a Book List App To Your Classroom Webpage

1. In Site Manager, navigate to the workspace containing the page to which you wish to add a Book List app.
2. Click Actions to the right of the page and select Edit Page from the drop-down list. The page opens in Edit mode.
3. Under Actions, click Manage Apps & Layout. The page opens in Design mode.
4. Click Add App. The Select an App dialog displays.
5. Select Book List App in the first column. A list of existing Book List apps along with a Create New button display in the second column.
6. To add an existing app to the page, select an app in the list. You are returned to the page in Design mode.
7. To add a new app to the page, click Create New. In the third column, enter a name for the app.
8. Click Create. You are returned to the page in Design mode.
9. Click I’m Done to return to the page in Edit Mode.
10. You are now ready to add your book titles to the app.

Instructional Technology Goals:

☆ Personalize learning to increase student engagement and achievement
☆ Provide equity and access to new learning opportunities
☆ Document and track student performance
☆ Empower collaborative learning communities
☆ Maximize teaching and administrative effectiveness
☆ Build student proficiencies in 21st Century skills

Google Maps Special Collections is a great place to find and explore street view imagery of places around the world. You and your students can explore landmarks, natural wonders, step inside museums, arenas, even oceans with 360 degree images! Descriptions and maps are included. The photo below is from the Underwater Museum of Isla Mujeres, Mexico.

https://www.google.com/maps/views/streetview?gl=us
If you are working with young learners, and if you are looking for an option to create stories online, you might want to try Seussville Story Maker.

It’s a simple story maker featuring the characters from Horton Hears a Who. You don’t need to sign up or download anything to use this tool.

Simply go to the website, write your name and title, then choose your scene, music, characters and write your dialogues for each scene. When you are done, you can watch your customized story.

The only catch is you can’t get a link to share or download your story. Still, you can use this tool for teacher produced materials. Or you can work together in the classroom and make a whole class story.

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Quick Outlook Email Tips

(These tips work in the desktop client - not the web app)

- Often you’ll find the subject line of an email bears little resemblance to its contents, especially if it's part of a longer thread that may well have started with a message with no subject line. You can apply retrospective filing to important messages by renaming their subjects to make them easier to find. Do this by opening the email message in a new window and click in the subject line. Delete the old subject and type the new one in. Click 'Yes' to confirm the change.

- Did you know you can create a task from an email? From your inbox, highlight the email you want to create a task for. (The email does not need to be open.) Simply drag the email and drop it in the task bar. The subject line of the email now becomes the task, but you can change this to something more meaningful if you wish, and you can change the due date and reminder. At this time, you can either leave the email in your inbox or delete it, since the entire content was copied into the task.
**How to Erase Yourself From the Internet**

**Facebook** - If you don’t think you will ever use Facebook again and would like to delete your account forever, you can do that. Keep in mind this is not the same as deactivating your account, and you will not be able to retrieve any of the content.

**Twitter** - Unlike Facebook, on Twitter deactivate means delete. Twitter does hold onto your information for 30 days in case you change your mind.

**LinkedIn** - Simply choose Close Your Account in the settings menu and you’re all set. It’ll take a while for all traces to leave Google searches but before too long you won’t appear in search results.

**Google+** - If you have a Gmail account, there’s a good chance you’re a member of Google+, maybe without even realizing it. To just get rid of your public information on Google+, click on your name in the upper right hand corner, go to Account Management, Delete Profile, then Remove Related Google+ features, Delete Google+ Content. To get rid of your entire Google+ account, repeat this process, but select Delete your entire Google profile. You’ll still be able to use Gmail, Google Drive, etc., but your Google+ account will vanish.

*To delete other online accounts that you may have created along the way, try one of these tools:*

**Account Killer** maintains a massive database of sites—more than 500 in all, and provides direct links to each one's deletion page.

**JustDelete Me** offers a similar service, as well as a handy Chrome Extension that will light up whenever you're on a site that JDM recognizes and will link you directly to the site's account deletion page.

**Knowem** finds sites that you may have forgotten about entirely by doing a username search on more that 500 popular social sites.

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**Favorite Free Apps**

In level one of Homophones, a series of sentences appears on the screen. For each sentence, the student is presented with a pair of homophones, and must slide the correct word into the sentence. When each sentence appears, the sentence is spoken by the app, and a picture appears to help the student understand the sentence. Level two is the same as Level One, but there are no pictures or audio. The student must read the sentence to understand it. [https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/homophones-free-english-language/id519850392?mt=8](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/homophones-free-english-language/id519850392?mt=8)

Idea Sketch lets you easily draw a diagram - mind map, concept map, or flow chart - and convert it to a text outline, and vice versa. You can use Idea Sketch for anything, such as brainstorming new ideas, illustrating concepts, making lists and outlines, planning presentations, creating organizational charts, and more! [https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/idea-sketch/id367246522?mt=8](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/idea-sketch/id367246522?mt=8)

Check out more app recommendations on the HP Technology Website. New apps added weekly! [http://www.hpschools.org/technology](http://www.hpschools.org/technology)
Seven Things (Maybe) You Didn’t Know You Could Do With PowerPoint

Do you have a lot of time invested in PowerPoint presentations? Don’t start from scratch! You can give those presentations some simple tweaking and turn them into a 21st century model!

1. **Animations:** Bring some engaging fun into your presentation with a simple edit. Just click on the content you wish to animate, then click on the animation menu. You will see options such as Fade, Fly in, etc. Choose one to preview what the effect will look like. You can also set the duration, delay the animation, and make a few other changes. Be careful, though. It’s easy to get carried away. Don’t stress your audience with too many distracting, dizzying effects.

2. **Motion Paths:** Objects can move across the screen in a path you’ve created for them. Click the “Add Effect” button in the animations menu and you’ll see the Motions Path option. The basic paths are Lines, Arcs, Turns, Shapes, etc. Practice how you want your objects to move. For example, demonstrate how a planet moves around the sun.

3. **Text and Image Emphasis:** Emphasis is another example of animation. You can make an image or text grow, shrink, spin, etc. to bring attention to it.

4. **Narrate your own audio over slides.** On the appropriate slide, click Insert, Record Sound. This is great for presentations you’re adding to your website for students to study at home.

5. **Create and use your own templates.** Open a blank presentation. In the View tab, click Slide Master. In the Edit Master group, click Insert Slide Master. Choose the background color and fill effects you want, then the font size and style. Decide if you want a footer and/or header on all slides. Determine if you want an image or any other features on all slides. Once finished, click on File, Save As, then under Save as Type, choose PowerPoint template.

6. **Embed a functioning Excel worksheet into a presentation.** Click the Insert menu, then choose Object from the ribbon. Then either click Excel Worksheet under “Create New” or click “Create from File” and browse out to an Excel worksheet and select it. A large format worksheet isn’t going to work well here, but if you create or insert a small functional worksheet it should be simple to navigate and use.

7. **Create infographics using shapes and colors.** Check out the ideas and templates here: [http://mywebdesignsource.com/5-infographics-to-teach-you-how-to-easily-create-infographics-in-powerpoint-templates](http://mywebdesignsource.com/5-infographics-to-teach-you-how-to-easily-create-infographics-in-powerpoint-templates)

**it’s not what the software does. it’s what the user does.**

So much yet to learn!
Sharing Files Between Apple Devices

We've all done it - emailed a file (photo or a document) to our Mac from our iPhone or iPad, even as we sit right in front of the Mac. That's probably because using email to move files around works pretty well as long as your file is small enough to be attached to an email. But there's a better way to move files between gadgets or even among friends.

Though file moving is a feature that goes back to iOS 7, previous versions did not include your desktop Mac computers. Many users simply used third-party apps like DropBox to move files back and forth between gadgets. That's all changed now. When Apple released iOS 8 along with the newest desktop OS, Yosemite, it also dramatically improved and simplified the ability to move files. And, the really cool part of this new function is that your Apple gadgets don't even have to be on the same network or signed into the same iCloud account to move files back and forth! That means you can also move files to a friend or co-worker. However, there is one small caveat to this file moving system: it is designed to work between users who are physically near each other. Apple says gadgets should be within about 30 feet of each other, so this works well in coffee shops, conference tables, etc.

Apple AirDrop

Apple’s AirDrop lets you seamlessly move files back and forth between nearby Mac computers and iOS gadgets. You can locate AirDrop on a Mac by going to Finder, the Share menu, and in Open and Save windows. When you choose AirDrop in Yosemite, your Mac looks for nearby devices that can also use AirDrop. This includes Mac computers with OS Lion or later, and iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch devices with iOS 7 or later. To see if your Mac works with AirDrop, make sure you're in the Finder by clicking the desktop or by clicking the Finder icon in the Dock. Then, check to see if AirDrop is listed as an option in the Go menu. If you don't see AirDrop listed, your Mac doesn't support this feature.

Steps to Use Airdrop Between a Mac and an iOS Device

1. Wi-Fi must be enabled on your device. The devices using AirDrop do not have to be on the same Wi-Fi network.
2. Turn on Bluetooth on your mobile device (Settings -> Bluetooth) and Mac (Menu Bar -> Apple -> System Preferences -> Bluetooth -> Turn Bluetooth On).
3. Turn on AirDrop on your mobile device (Slide up to access Control Center -> AirDrop -> Choose "Contacts Only" or "Everyone") and Mac (Finder -> Menu Bar -> Go -> AirDrop -> Click "Allow me to be discovered by:" -> Choose "Contacts Only" or "Everyone").
4. You may now begin using AirDrop to transfer files between a Mac and an iOS device. To test it out, go to the AirDrop menu in the Mac Finder and notice that your iOS device is represented by circle. Drag and drop a file onto the circle, and your iOS device will prompt you to accept the file. If you don't see the receiving device in the AirDrop window, make sure the recipient is set up to receive files over AirDrop. You can also transfer files from the Mac to an iOS device using apps that have the Share feature built-in. The Share menu can be accessed in the upper right corner of an app and is represented by a square with an upward facing arrow.
5. Transferring a file from an iOS device to a Mac can be done in any app that supports the Share functionality. Like on the Mac, the Share button brings up a list of options for transfers including AirDrop. For example, sending an image to the Mac from the Photos app can be done by tapping the Share button, tapping AirDrop, and selecting the desired Mac. A prompt to accept the file should then appear on the Mac.
Steps to Using Airdrop Between Mobile Devices

Sending files between your mobile devices is similar to the previous steps. You'll need both devices to be no more than 30 feet apart, with both Wi-Fi and Bluetooth turned on.

- On the device that you want to send from, locate the file you wish to send and press the share button (Figure 1).
- Again, you'll see any nearby users who have AirDrop enabled, such as user "Richard" shown on the screenshot below (Figure 1).
- If you see only the AirDrop icon with no users, ask your receiver to make sure they have enabled Wi-Fi and Bluetooth.
- Tap the AirDrop icon until the receiver's name is displayed below their circle photo or icon.
- When you see the contact picture and name of the device you want to send to, tap on the circle. This will start the transfer.
- If you are sending to yourself on another device, it will auto download and will display the file.
- If you are sending to someone else, they will need to accept the file (Figure 2).
Siri in the Classroom - *Siri is a great way to incorporate mobile devices into your classroom as a problem solving tool. Here are a few ways.*

- **Word definitions:** Not only will Siri give you a definition of a word, but she’ll provide you with the spelling of the word too. This is a useful trick when you know how to pronounce something but aren’t sure how to spell it! To try this out, say “define geochronology” to Siri.

- **Mathematical calculations and real world statistics:** Siri uses the Wolfram Alpha computational knowledge engine to perform calculations and/or work with statistical data. You can ask Siri questions like “what is 15% of 760?” You can also ask things like “compare the stats of Tony Romo to Eli Manning.”

- **Bring up an image or geometric shape:** You can ask Siri to show you an isosceles triangle, a circle, or even a velociraptor. Siri will show you an image along with other pertinent information.

- **Transform your voice into written text:** Transforming speech to text is what Siri does best! Students can dictate what they want to say and Siri will transform their spoken words into written ones. This works in any app that allows you to type. To use Siri within an app, simply bring up the keyboard wherever you’d enter text and click on the microphone key to the left of the spacebar.

*Siri outside the classroom…*

- One of the most convenient features of Siri is simply the ability to turn features on and off. Since Bluetooth is one of the biggest drains on your phone's battery, using Siri to turn it off can be quite useful. Simply open Siri say “Turn Bluetooth off.”

- If Siri misunderstands what you said, then you can fix it. No, you don’t have to delete and redo the whole message. All you need to do is say “Change that” to fix it. For example, if you organize a meeting, and you get the wrong day, all you've have to do is to say, “Change that to the 22nd.” Siri will automatically delete the old date and change it to the one that you intended.

- If you're listening to a song that you like, Siri can try to identify it. Just launch Siri and ask her what song is playing. Siri will compare what she hears to all of the songs in the iTunes database and try to identify it. If she comes up with a match, she’ll give you the option to buy the song on iTunes.

- If you're bored, then you can also ask Siri to just **tell you a story.** She might need some convincing though.

- Open Siri and say “**Take a note.**” Once you’re done talking, Siri will save what you dictated to the built-in Notes app.

**Final thought:**

“I’ve been referred to as someone who is ‘tech savvy’ quite often, and to be honest, it irritates me. It is not that I don’t love technology or think that it is important in our world, but it has never been my focus. My goal in education was to become an early years teacher, and technology was not something that drove my passions. *What I am hoping to become is learning savvy; someone who understands different ways and opportunities to empower learners at all levels.* Should technology be a part of becoming learning savvy? Absolutely. There are so many opportunities that technology provides for deep learning both in and out of schools, and to ignore these possibilities is to take away opportunities from our students. Technology now provides the world at our fingertips; we would be remiss to not tap into that potential.”

~George Couros, The Principal of Change