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INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARD AS A TOOL FOR CREATING A RANGE OF LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

Interactive whiteboards are being integrated into many classrooms in our country. They have become popular over the last few years, and it appears that their use will continue to grow. Interactive whiteboards have great potential as a tool to improve student achievement. IWBs, sometimes referred to as electronic whiteboards or SMART Boards, are devices that connect to a computer, which in turn are connected to a multimedia projector [1]. Some boards, such as the SMART Board, are touch-sensitive, and others rely on an invisibly gridded whiteboard and an electronic pen. Another type of technology that falls under the IWB category is the eBeam. This technology consists of a receiver placed on the edge of a flat surface, and a radio-wave emitting pen. IWBs are used to reinforce current didactic teaching practices.

The software comes with all you need to build years worth of lessons. Teachers can create content or select preprogrammed applications that cover a particular topic. Students and teachers can use a finger or a stylus to write directly on the board. Teachers can then save the projected content onto a laptop, record audio notes to go with it and distribute it in printed or electronic format.

This type of tool promotes creative teaching and motivates students into absorbing information. Teaching with an interactive whiteboard allows teachers (educators) to accommodate all different learning styles. Tactile learners get to touch and move things around the board. They can also make notes and highlight elements. Visual learners benefit from a clear view of what is happening on the board. Audio learners can participate in a class discussion. IWBs are generally perceived by students and teachers as a positive addition to the classroom learning.

They also help teachers introduce new topics with engaging content or present existing topics in innovative ways. Their interactive features make them the perfect complement to other instructional technologies in the classroom and make it easy for teachers to enhance presentation content by easily integrating a wide range of material into a lesson [2].

Smart board offers high-quality and interactive content along with useful resources to help teachers of every skill level integrate technology into their teaching [3]. Working with IWB and using Smart Notebook10 teachers can create such types of exercises as: *category sort*, *category sort (image)*, *image arrange*, *image match*, *image select*, *note reveal*, *multiple choice*, *pairs*, *sentence arrange*, *tiles*, *timeline reveal*, *vortex sort*, etc. Also there can be used different playing pieces: *checkers*, *dice*, *dominoes*, and adding images from other sources or creating links to a web page, file, etc.

Students as well as the teacher appreciate the variety of activities and tools that can be used during the lessons. There are also some other web applications that can be used in combination with interactive boards. For example, *Kubbu.com* and *LearningApps.org* are most frequently used alternative tools at my lessons.

Kubbu is an e-learning tool designed to facilitate teachers' work and enhance the learning process. It allows to:

1. Create activities, crosswords and quizzes for online practice, revision and examination
2. Easily create and manage students' and groups' accounts
3. Track students' and groups' progress using result database
4. Quickly prepare a paper version of activities, crosswords and quizzes
5. Send individual and group e-mail messages to your students
6. Create online group space (class page)
7. Share activities with other teachers

LearningApps.org is a Web 2.0 application, to support learning and teaching processes with small interactive modules. Those modules can be used directly in learning materials, but also for self-studying.

IWBs help in broadening the use of e-learning because they demonstrate the potential of alternative modes of delivery. They make it easy for teachers to enhance presentation content by easily integrating a wide range of material into a lesson. They allow teachers to create easily and rapidly customised learning objects and to adapt it to the needs of the class in real time. When fully integrated into a VLE (virtual learning environment) and learning object repository there is potential for widespread sharing of resources.

Younger learners are growing up with technology, and it is a natural and integrated part of their lives. For these learners the use of technology is a way to bring the outside world into the classroom. Informational technologies present us with new opportunities for authentic tasks and materials as well as access to a wealth of ready-made materials.

Nowadays informational technologies offer new ways for practising language and assessing performance.

LITERATURE

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3. Smith, A. Interactive Whiteboard Evaluation / A. Smith. – URL: <https://mirandanet.org.uk/casestudies/124> (date of access: 20.08.2016).