

Educational Technology Philosophy Statement

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When I was in elementary school, the library was the place I would go to escape from my regular school day. Almost daily I would check out several books and generally read late into the night. I loved the library so much I created my own personal library at home complete with catalog cards for each of the books. From a very young age I have had a deep respect for books and learning. Never in my wildest dreams would I have anticipated in such a short time that technology would provide such an amazing platform for future learning and alter the role of the librarian so greatly.

As a library educator, I believe that the integration of technology into the curriculum is essential for students to be successful as 21st-century learners. Technology has a myriad of benefits in the library for digital learners. It can save time helping students locate research resources and even bring stories to life with online books and 24-hour access to literature through online databases.

In order for students to learn, a safe environment complete with social activism is imperative. I believe the library should be a space that encourages students to freely seek out knowledge and become divergent thinkers. It is my role to organize the library in such a way that their privacy is protected and there is appropriate space for patrons to have individual, small group and large group interaction. Students also need to have reasonable access to technology in the library such as computers, audiovisual stations, recording devices and online portals for the library catalog. I will also directly teach my students how to stay safe on the internet and how to interact correctly with proper netiquette.

As a librarian educator and technology leader on campus, I plan to weave constructivist ideology into the fabric of the library. I am a life-long learner. I believe people learn best through participating. With theorist Robert Gagne in mind, I understand that this sequence of scaffolded learning events starts with me. I understand I must be abreast of innovative technology for students and staff to explore. I understand that I need educate students on research techniques and how to evaluate online materials for accountability. I will also teach the staff on campus how to utilize library relevant materials and technology tools so they can extend the learning into their own classrooms. In this digital society it is also important to utilize online tools for professional communication.

In this age of advanced technology, it is imperative for the library to remain a versatile hub on campus. I plan to do this by keeping the collection of print and online books balanced and current for my students to access through an easy to use library portal with an online catalog. Electronic subscriptions like online databases, periodicals and reference materials need to be continuously available to patrons. Parents and students alike need to be educated on how to access the library resources with ease. The library should be an educational destination for students to have inquiry-based explorations via

MakerSpaces and after school clubs related to technology and reading. In order to keep the library relevant, I know it is important to take time to reflect and redefine my goals for the library and gain insight frequently from patrons to continually improve the library space and resources.

As educational technology changes, I believe the educator must also adapt to, and maybe even predict, the changes to remain current. It's important to be available to students, find out what kind of technology they have regular access to and learn what the "latest" thing is in their world. As a self-proclaimed lifelong learner, I will use my daily interactions, inquiry-driven research and personal experiences to continually learn and make me a better teacher for my students.