

Historical Events of Educational Technology

History of American Education (EDU 352)

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Imagine a time where education was only the passage of knowledge from elders to youths by grunts, basic language, and cave drawings. This time period was the birth of education and it has along way from it origins. Technology can come in many forms including tools to better perform tasks. Throughout history numerous inventions have developed education to its current state but eight items have made a large impact on education.

In 1800s a headmaster decided to use a large school slate to present information to the students. The use of the slate as a chalkboard became an instant success and was copied in every American school. Chalkboards did not make change from its origin until the 1960s, which it was changed to a piece of steel coated with porcelain. It was called a green board and it was lighter on the eyes and the chalked was removed with more ease. The blackboard and slate was more prominent in the states because of the high cost of paper (The History of the Classroom Blackboard, 2012). The blackboard is still in use today in many classrooms because it allows teachers to write or draw on the board and students can copy the information and ask follow-up questions. However, the blackboard is on the wane because of the invention of whiteboards and interactive whiteboards, which will be discussed later.

After the cost of paper was affordable the pencil was created to be able to write on now affordable paper. Its invention came in 1900 not long after blackboards. The pencil allowed students to quickly and accurately write on paper and erase mistakes they may have been made. The students could take their writing home to repair mistakes or rewrite the required material. Pencils is a mature tool that will have a place in education for years to come because of its

usefulness. There are few other tools that allow students to write on paper and easily repair mistakes that they have made.

Unlike the pencil, the invention of television in the 1930s did not allow immediate repair of mistakes. Television offered a nationwide platform that could educate all the youths by engaging stories, cartoons, and news. However, as stated previously news could be reported incorrectly and the only course of correction was a message or announcement. Television also removed a very important social aspect to children's lives. It kept children indoors more often, which is still prevalent today. This technology is very mature and as with pencils will have a place within society for a long time.

The ballpoint pen was invented around the time of the Great Depression, which in turn took awhile to actually gain popularity because of its initial high cost. However, the pen showed greater usefulness over the pencil because of its ability to write on numerous surfaces. This educational technology was first used by pilots then emerged into all other facets of life (Brachmann, 2014). In education, the pen allowed students to write in their textbooks without the fear of the notes rubbing off. The tool is also mature and will continue to influence educators around the world.

The hand-held calculator was invented in 1970 and drastically changed education. The calculator meant that students did not have to rely only on mental calculation to complete their tasks. Educators had to change the way they taught Math because students could easily do the work at home. Educators had to not only had to incorporate the calculator into their plans but mental work as well. The calculator is on the wane because calculators built into smart phones are ubiquitous.

As calculators are being incorporated into computer technology, the same computers are steadily becoming connected to the Internet. The internet was created around the 1970s and has boomed since its arrival. The Internet has changed the face of education in many ways and continues to do so. Teachers now have a plethora of resources at their fingertips; as long as the teacher is resourceful and knows areas on the net to find them, then the ideas are limitless. Teachers are able to share their ideas not just from word of mouth but now by blogs and other websites. This interconnectedness allows educators from around the world to better themselves and in turn better their classroom and students. This technology is still emerging due to the high cost of computers and Internet access in the classroom. Soon every classroom will come equipped with a computing device and the Internet.

The Internet allowed teachers to interact with other teachers around the world while the Interactive Whiteboard allowed students to learn in a more engaging environment. This technology was only introduced to the world 16 years ago in 1999. Interactive Whiteboards or Smartboards are engaging and can create more student-to-student interactions triggering better recollection of the material. The technology, just as the Internet, is still emerging because of its high cost. Usually an Interactive Whiteboard requires a computer, projector and a board. It is a high price to pay to equip only one classroom.

Lastly, the Apple iPad has greatly influenced computing and education. The iPad took computing from strictly typing to touch. It allowed students and educators to manipulate items in four dimensions. The iPad made its debut in 2010, only 5 short years ago. It has been a huge success for educators who can integrate it into their curriculum. It engages the students and gives them a visual stimulation that may not otherwise be creatable. This EDtech tool is also emerging

like Interactive Whiteboards and the Internet. The iPad will continue to shape education and the way educators deliver their lessons.

Education is developing constantly. As new tools and technology emerges they are either slowing making their way into education or rapidly because of their low cost and great benefits.

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