

Trends and Issues of Educational Technology in Japan

ARCS Model to bridge theory and practice
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1. Technology continues to advance: Schools are changing

- All Japanese schools now have connection to the Internet; next to every classroom
- Curriculum has changed to support the use of technology in schools
- Educational materials are prepared on the Web, ready to be used, free of charge
- Teachers are trained to know how to integrate technology into classes
- Human support are given to help teachers prepare for technology utilization

2. Examples: School broadcasting in the digital age

- The 54th Annual Conference of Broadcasting Educators, Nov. 5-6, 2003
- Okome (Rice): TV series and Web site for elementary Integrated Study
→4 components of NHK digital material: Television, Clips, Homepage, BBS
- Web support for Distance High School Students
→NHK Web site and High School Web site: designing who does what for what ends?

3. Educational Technology (Instructional Design) to bridge Theory and Practice

- Technology push vs. Demands pull: Technology use is not the goal but a method
- Psychology research findings to help others learn
→Instruction is intentional events to facilitate human learning (R.M. Gagne)
- Technology not as hardware, but as systematic way of problem solving
→then what is the problem to solve?

4. An Example: John M. Keller's ARCS model of motivation design

- Divide motivational problems into four categories: i.e., ARCS
- Attention, Relevance, Confidence, and Satisfaction
→derived from many psychological research findings to make a practical model
- Yet needed is a handy tool to easily apply the ARCS model
→Web site to help the users of the ARCS model (Suzuki, et.al, 2003, attached)

5. Needed: Practitioners with Researcher's Eyes, and verse versa.

- Many useful research findings, but not widely known in Japan
- Strongly needed: those who interpret research based theories and models in various contexts of educational practices
→to make educational practices more effective, efficient, and appealing