Deciding Which Technology(s) to Use in the Classroom

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Using technology in the classroom can be a great way to enhance learning and increase engagement. But with so many available options, how do you decide which technology to use? When it comes to choosing educational tools, there is good news and bad news:

The **good news** is: there are many technologies from which to choose.

The **bad news** is: there are many technologies from which to choose.

Fortunately, there are a few ways to help you decide what technology will best suit your goals.

The first (and easiest) solution is to contact the Teaching & Learning Centre. With experience in a wide range of technologies, the Teaching & Learning Centre team are experts at helping you choose and implement a solution that will work for both you and your students.

Of course, you may prefer to evaluate a potential technology yourself. If so, the **SECTIONS Model** may be of interest. The SECTIONS Model provides a set of criteria and / or questions you should ask when trying to decide on an educational technology.

SECTIONS is the acronym for the following criteria used as the focus for evaluating technologies:

Students
Ease of Use / Reliability
Costs
Teaching & Learning
Interactivity
Organizational Issues

Novelty

Speed

Originally developed for use in distance education by Bates & Poole (2003), all or some of its criteria can be applied to both online and traditional face-to-face (F2F) environments.

Get Your Own Version
A checklist form which uses Bates & Poole's criteria – augmented with a framework of guiding questions proposed by UBC – is available for your use: SECTIONS Analysis Tool (PDF).

More Information
Interested in finding out more about the SECTIONS model? See Chapter 8 of the open e-text, Teaching in a Digital Age (Bates, 2015).

References

Bates, A.W.; and Poole, G. (2003) Effective Teaching with Technology in Higher Education: Foundations For Success. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers. 79-80

Bates, A. W. (2015). Teaching in a Digital Age. Retrieved from http://opentextbc.ca/teachinginadigitalage/

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