

Navigating You Through Media and Technology in Education

The Cyber Nautica

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Empowering Education,



Connecting Learners

A Publication by



Publisher's Information

Editorial Advisor:

Teo Meiling

Editor:

Nur Firzillia

Graphic Designer:

Alfred Simbulan

Article Contributors:

Mary Yeo

Kevin Lee

Justin Lu

Rustin Neo

Siti Zulriah Bte Mohd Rahmat

Serohijos Froilan Fuentes

Editor's Note

In a blink of an eye, we are quickly approaching the end of 2010 and looking into the start of a new year.

This year alone, ACP has marked new milestones and has been given opportunities to expand our accolades through several tenders by the Ministry of Education. The tender awards include provision of Learning Management System and Media Literacy Programme to schools in Singapore.

We are fortunate and honoured to be recognised as a winning solutions provider and, in this issue, would like to showcase a look into what goes on in our organisation, our people as well as the passion that drives us towards service excellence and innovation.

Also, in this second edition of the CyberNautica, we delve into how schools can and are leveraging on powerful web-based tools to power their education and learning.

Ever since the start of a paradigm shift towards a more dynamic and platform-independent mode of learning, tools such as learning management systems and heuristic online learning agents (HOLA) can help facilitate the understanding of concepts; provide alternative performance tracking options, and varied virtual experiences for students.

Along with these new developments, at ACP, we still recognize the need to make education engaging and personalized so that every one of our students, together with our passionate teachers and trainers, can reach their full potential. We hope you will enjoy reading our articles and we look forward to seeing you in our next issue!

Firzillia
Editor

The ACP Family: Camaraderie & Celebrations



A Game Of Captain's Ball

To add some variety to our regular office fitness regime, we recently decided to replace our bi-weekly jogging session with a healthy game of Captain's Ball.

The main objective of our workplace health initiative was to get everyone out of the office and to build rapport. This fun and sweat-inducing game had more than met our goal. We left the court with shortness in breath but high in spirit!

BBQ At The Park

At ACP, we pride ourselves as a company who not only focuses on work but on having fun at the same time. This is why we held a barbecue session at Labrador Park, in July 2010. It was a barbeque feast with different food such as otah, satay, fishballs and much more, grilled by our own people!

Even though it was raining that did not dampen our spirits one bit and everyone had a great time!



New Beginnings

ACP would like to congratulate:

Kevin Lee, ACP's Assistant Director (Operations & Services), and Christine Tan for joining together as husband and wife on October 10, 2010.



Alfred Simbulan Jr., ACP's Creative Designer, and Jamie Alarcon on their wedding day on November 15, 2010.

Irmanizam Mohamed, ACP's Account Executive, and his wife on their newborn baby!

Saleem Hadi, ACP's Senior Training Executive, for making it to the top 10 of the Project PDA film competition.


Your Thought Matters!

We'd love to hear your opinions and feedback about our publication and services.

Drop us a message anytime via email, twitter or facebook !

 yourthoughtmatters@acpcomputer.edu.sg

 www.twitter.com/acpsingapore

 www.facebook.com/acpsingapore

LMS: Relocating Classrooms

Technology use in education has grown exponentially in recent years. In 1997, the Ministry of Education launched the first ICT Masterplan as part of the "Thinking Schools, Learning Nation" vision. Thirteen years later, the youth of Singapore are now some of the most connected and technologically savvy students in the world.

The Learning Management System (LMS) is slowly emerging to be one of the most important weapons in an educator's arsenal. An LMS or e-learning application can be used for distance learning and as a supplement to in-class lectures. The LMS also makes it easier for teachers to support different approaches and styles of learning.

Every student learns in a different way – some are captivated by visuals, some understand best by listening and others like to get hands-on. Having a flexible platform that is able to encompass different learning contents enable schools to adopt differentiated learning into their mode of teaching.

In ACP we offer an innovative LMS solution called CyberSphere Academy. CyberSphere Academy can be easily implemented and customised to suit the end users' needs and our support is readily available when any problem arises. It can also be run on the "cloud" via cloud computing which can greatly decrease the cost of having an LMS for your organization or school. With the aid of ACP and no technical obstacles to dynamism and innovation, it has never been easier to start a learning revolution.



Cloud Computing: The Next Step

Cloud computing is the next step to running your organisation. Instead of running applications (apps) yourself, you can run them on a shared data center, also known as the "cloud". When your app is in the cloud all you need to do is to log in, customise it and enjoy. It's that simple!

All types of apps are run on the cloud these days such as CRM, HR, accounting, and even custom-built apps. The best thing about cloud computing is that cloud-based apps can be up and running in only a few days, which is unheard of with traditional business software. They cost less, because you don't need to pay for all the people, products, and facilities to run them. And, it turns out they're more scalable, more secure, and more reliable than most apps. Plus, upgrades are taken care of for you, so your apps get security and performance enhancements and new features automatically.

The way you pay for cloud-based apps is also different. Forget about buying servers and software. When your apps run in the cloud, you don't buy anything. It's all rolled up into a predictable monthly subscription, so you only pay for what you actually use.



ACP was awarded the tender for the Provision of Learning Management System to schools by Ministry of Education

For more info, email Justin at justin@acpcomputer.edu.sg or Eric at eric@acpcomputer.edu.sg

Want to know more about Fort Canning? HOLA™ it!



To make learning “as exciting as Disneyland”, schools are experimenting with new tools and approaches to engage their students. In a recent field trip to Fort Canning Park, students found themselves deeply engaged and chatting away with none other than Sir Stamford Raffles. This was one of many other initiatives aimed at making the school a leader for the innovative use of technology in teaching and learning.

Instant messaging (IM) in class sounds like a teacher’s nightmare but Shuqun Primary School, has found a way of making the immediate nature of IM work to their advantage. Working together with ACP, Edward Yeo, a teacher, created “Raffles”, a learning agent that can chat with students about Fort Canning Park, answering the students’ questions about the history of the park and the important role it played in the 18th Century.

This project made a huge improvement in helping students to learn using a self-directed learning tool on Microsoft’s MSN Messenger platform, called HOLA. Sir Stamford Raffles is brought back to life through a virtual persona whom students can interact with. Mrs Tan Pui Ling, HOD (ICT) of Shuqun Primary School, observed that many students found it difficult to identify why and how Fort Canning placed an important role in Singapore’s history. “During this learning trail to Fort Canning, we gently introduce the virtual character,

Stamford Raffles, who chats on the modern and familiar MSN platform. Students now think that Raffles is ‘cool’ and agree that learning History is becoming easier.” she added.

Compared to the past, when lessons came to a quick close because of the lack of interaction, the students were so engaged in chatting enthusiastically with the dead statesman, who came “alive” as their new online friend. By reviewing the conversations between the students and Raffles, teachers can also better gauge a student’s level of understanding on the subject. The school plans to extend this to other learning trails as well in the near future.

“During this learning trail to Fort Canning, we gently introduce the virtual character, Stamford Raffles, who chats on the modern and familiar MSN platform. Students now think that Raffles is ‘cool’ and agree that learning History is becoming easier.”

**- Mrs Tan Pui Ling HOD (ICT) ,
Shuqun Primary School**



Understanding Media in the Digital Age

"The Hidden Tiger" created by Rusty Rust



Not all media comes in conventional ways, nor are their hidden messages as easy to spot as the hidden tiger in the photo. (There are 2 tigers in the photo. Can you spot "The Hidden Tiger"?)

Today's students have more information at their fingertips than any other generation could have dreamed of before. They can access millions of books, scholarly journals, and other publications at their local libraries or on the National Library Board website. They can learn how to cook by watching television programmes; how to build their own bicycles by watching YouTube videos; and how to make iPhone apps by downloading free lectures from Stanford University.

At the same time, the media has unprecedented access to the public. Companies can zero in on their target market much more effectively. Facebook chooses the ads it shows users based on the details stated in their personal profiles. The sheer amount of media messages—whether overt or subliminal—can be overwhelming. This is especially true for the youth, who can find it very difficult to separate reality from what they see on tv, the internet and other media.

ACP was awarded the tender for the Provision of Media Literacy Programme (MLP) for Primary 5 and Secondary 3 Students by Ministry of Education

For more information contact
Mary at maryyeo@acpcomputer.edu.sg or
Eric at eric@acpcomputer.edu.sg

"...despite the widespread agreement on its importance, training in digital literacy skills and techniques is rare in any discipline, and especially rare in teacher education programs.

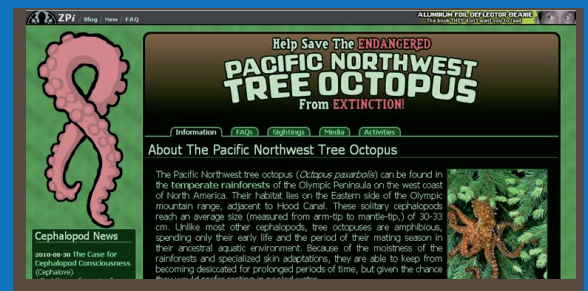
...digital literacy must necessarily be less about tools and more about ways of thinking and seeing, and of crafting narrative."

– 2010 Horizon Report



Did You Know?

The Tree Octopus Test



In 2008, a spoof website <http://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/> stated that there was a particular breed of octopus that lived in a tree. 34 out of 35 Singapore students who read this website believed that such a creature actually exists.

The spoof site, was set up as an online hoax, but is now used by institutions to test Internet literacy.

The students, aged 13 to 19, were unable to distinguish fact from fiction in a Straits Times test of media literacy among youth.

This over-reliance on the Internet as a source of information could explain why teens are weak at judging whether information is trustworthy.

Source:
<http://news.asiaone.com/print/News/Education/Story/A1Story20080901-85348.html>

Our Luminaries

aka Training Executives

Siti Zulriah Bte Mohd Rahmat shares with us her insights on being a Training Executive.

I initially started my role in ACP as an adhoc trainer before I was stationed at New Town Primary School as their residential training executive.

As a training executive in this school, I have a responsibility to be the best mentor and role model to my students, while injecting some fun and creativity to my lessons. I'm happy to be able to conduct these lessons, even down to the preparation work!

"I have learnt that being a training executive is not about putting knowledge in but about drawing knowledge out and realising the hidden potential of every student I meet."



I always believe that education and technology are integral parts of life and being part of ACP has certainly brought me to a level of consciousness and confidence to share this with the world.

It is a journey that will be empowering to those who want to make a difference in life!

The most rewarding part of my job is helping others and seeing their happy faces. I have learnt that being a training executive is not about putting knowledge in, but about drawing knowledge out and realising the hidden potential of every student I meet.



Serohijos Froilan Fuentes talks about his passion for learning and teaching.

I've been working in ACP as a training executive since May of 2009. And the one thing I can say for certain is that I really feel as part of a family.

ACP has helped me build my skills to a level I never expected to achieve. They've sent me to several courses to hone my skills and have always motivated, inspired, and engaged us to reach a higher level of knowledge and experience.

Using my newfound knowledge, I have been able to apply these skills to my lessons. Seeing the children

respond to the different teaching techniques that have been taught to me, is an amazing and fulfilling sight to behold.

Teaching subjects like ICT and media literacy can be really challenging -- it is a new and constantly evolving subject. However, with the unlimited nurturing and support that I've received from ACP, as well as my own creativity and passion, it has proven to be very rewarding – for me as well as for my students.

ACP was not only there to build up my skills and experience, but was also there when I needed them the most. I cannot forget the help they extended to me, when my wife and son were hospitalized. It really comforted me and brought me strength just knowing that my ACP Family was there for me, especially during troubled times.

"However, with the unlimited nurturing and support that I've received from ACP, as well as a lot of creativity and passion, it has proven to be very rewarding – for me as well as for my students."

Best Breed of Partners



ACP is an exclusive distributor of Global Grid for Learning elearning content in Singapore and South East Asia.

Global Grid for Learning (GGfL) is the trusted broker for digital content, connecting teachers and students at all stages in education to a single source for high quality, digital multimedia learning resources from some of the world's leading educational publishers and content providers.

We aim to make it as easy and seamless as possible for teachers and students to access the content they need, when they need it, and through whatever device they choose to access it.



ACP is now the exclusive partner of Turnitin, in Singapore for K-12 schools. This solution will be available in our Learning Management System (LMS), CyberSphere Academy.

Turnitin is the global leader in originality checking and plagiarism prevention. It offers millions of educators and students unprecedented insight into students' written work and is used across every discipline by secondary and higher education institutions all over the world.

Shortcut Keys For a Faster Workflow

Microsoft Word 2010 is the latest office suite from the Microsoft Office stable. Compiled below are a few shortcut keys that not only allow you to speed up your workflow, but also takes you one step closer to mastering this powerful program.



Microsoft Word 2010 Shortcut Keys

Key	Behavior
CTRL+SHIFT+F	Displays the font dialog box.
CTRL+SHIFT+G	Displays the word count dialog box.
CTRL+SHIFT+S	Displays the apply styles task pane.
ALT+R	Displays the review tab
ALT+CTRL+1	Apply Heading 1
CTRL+SHIFT+L	Applies bullets
CTRL+SHIFT+F5	Bookmark
ALT+SHIFT+F7	Dictionary
CTRL + U	Underline text
CTRL+SHIFT+D	Double underline
CTRL+M	Indentation
CTRL+E	Navigate to the center paragraph
CTRL+J	Justifies paragraph
ALT+F8	Inserts macros
CTRL+Z	Undo
ALT+SHIFT+K	Mail merge check
F10	Menu mode
CTRL+]]	Grow font one point
CTRL+SHIFT+.	Grow font
CTRL+SHIFT+P	Font size select
CTRL+SHIFT+C	Copy format

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> 27 October & 3 November 2010

Media Literacy Programme And Joomla

Join us for these informative sessions where you can learn about two of our great solutions, which are definitely beneficial for your students and school.

Time : 3:30 - 5:00pm

Venue : 3 Lim Teck Kim Road,
Singapore Technologies Building #08-02

> 03 November 2010

Microsoft Office 2010 Sneak Preview

Get yourself updated with the latest technology in the market and register for this sneak preview!

Time : 2:00 - 4:30 pm

Venue : 3 Lim Teck Kim Road,
Singapore Technologies Building #08-02

> 4/12/19 November 2010

Empowering Learners With Online Tools For Collaborative Learning.

This talk will provide schools with useful tips on how your school can utilize a Learning Management System to share ideas and knowledge and also how to streamline the learning processes.

Time : 4:00 - 5:00pm

Venue : 3 Lim Teck Kim Road,
Singapore Technologies Building #08-02

> 08 November 2010

Turnitin Talk With Dr. John Barrie and LMS Showcase with ACP

Dr. John Barrie, the founder of Turnitin, will be giving a talk on how education works and how we can teach students the importance of academic integrity with technology. ACP will also be showcasing our LMS, CyberSphere, at this event.

Time : 2:00 - 4:15 pm

Venue : Nanyang Girls' High School, Lecture Theater 2

> 17 December 2010

Building Your School's Brand With Powerful Websites

This talk will take you on a crash course in the use of a Content Management System. Learn how to take control of your site, publish and edit pages without breaking a sweat.

Time : 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Venue : 3 Lim Teck Kim Road,
Singapore Technologies Building #08-02

Call 6227 7996 to register.

Business Mission @ Vietnam

As delegates of a business mission trip organised by IE Singapore and the Singapore Manufacturing Association, ACP had the opportunity to meet up with several educators and officials from various educational institutions in Hanoi and Ho Chin Minh City in Vietnam. Some of the institutions we visited were the Foreign Trade University (Hanoi), the Singapore International School (Saigon City) and the Department of Education (Ho Chin Minh City).

The trip, held on the 23rd to 27th of August, was a rich and informative cultural experience. We were able to showcase ACP's featured solutions and share ideas and insights to the different educational systems and learning approaches used in Singapore and Vietnam.



EduTech Exhibition @ Nanyang JC

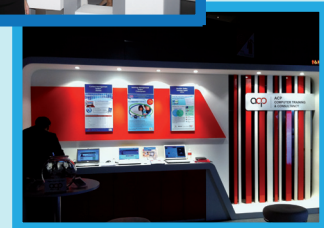


EduTech 2010 was held on 8 September 2010 at Nanyang Junior College. "Explore, Excite, Engage: Enriching Learning & Teaching with ICT" is the thematic approach that has been adopted for EduTech 2010. This is in support of engaging students in self-directed and collaborative learning against the backdrop of an evolving educational landscape.

ACP had the opportunity to showcase some of our solutions such as CyberSphere, HOLA (Heuristic Online Learning Agent), as well as our Media Literacy and SocialMedia21 programmes. The EduTech exhibition provided participants with an avenue to gain insights and explore possibilities for collaboration, with the Education Technology Division or ICT Solution providers like ACP, that leverages technology for learning and teaching.

I.Luminate @ Suntec

ACP recently showcased several of our Information and Communications Technology (ICT) solutions, such as CyberSphere and Content Management System, during the I.Luminate 2010 exhibition. The exhibition was held at Suntec Singapore on 21 and 22 September, on level 4 and level 6.



Contact Us

ACP Computer Training and Consultancy Pte Ltd.
No 3 Lim Teck Kim Road,
Singapore Technologies Building #08-02
Singapore 088934

Tel: (65) 6227 7996
Fax: (65) 6227 9672
Email: info@acpcomputer.edu.sg
Website: www.acpcomputer.edu.sg

