Technology in Education:

Recalling the Past, Staying Current & Looking Ahead...

**Teacher Scores
English Award with HOLA**

**Fighting Plagiarism
in Schools Today**

CERTIFICATION INTERNATIONAL

ISO 9001:2008

UKAS
QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
063

ISO 9001:2008
Certificate Number 10661

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Editor's Note

In the years before the 1990s, the only exposure I had to technology, in any form, was the television and my brother's 8-bit Tetris hand-held game. Technology was an infinitesimal part of life at the time and that's where I thought it would remain. Now you can see technology everywhere – from 3D movies to online food delivery. It has become so relevant in our daily lives that one would not know what to do without it.

Is it any wonder then that schools today have become so dependent on technology -- not only to streamline their administrative processes -- but also to integrate technology into their curriculums so as to make learning much more effective and self-directed?

I am pleased to be part of an industry that promotes technology in all its forms – both software and hardware – for the greater good. In ACP, we never stay stagnant. In fact, technology is so intertwined in our growth that becoming a technological trendsetter is our main objective. With the solutions we provide, we constantly innovate to ensure features are always updated and only best-in-class tools are being adopted. The best part about being on top of the technology bandwagon is that, we also keep a constant lookout for pitfalls and hence, advocate a culture to inculcate a sense of responsibility regarding the use of technology.

In this issue, we went in-depth to explore the rising need of anti-plagiarism tools and literacy programmes due to evolving technological demands and learning cultures. We also provided a quick insight on how much technological evolution has occurred since the introduction of the first central processing unit in schools. By looking into the past and exploring the present, we hope that these articles can provide you with a sneak peak into the limitless possibilities of the future…

We hope you will enjoy this issue.

Firzillia
Editor

ACP News

iSPRINT Funding

ACP's CyberSphere On Demand Learning Management System has now become more affordable than ever! CyberSphere is now one of the software listed under iSPRINT (Packaged Solutions). SMEs can claim up to 50% of the qualifying costs, capped at $10,000 for the purchase of the first packaged solution (listed) under each solution category (terms and conditions apply).

For more information, visit **www.ida.gov.sg/sme/ITpackages**

Our Strategic Partner

In November 2010, Popular Holding Limited through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Popular e-Learning Holding Pte Ltd has invested in ACP Computer Training & Consultancy Pte Ltd to form a strategic partnership. This will bring synergy to both ACP's education business and Popular's e-learning business. Both local and overseas joint education projects are currently in the works.

Bronze Award by HPB

ACP has won a Bronze award for the Singapore Health Award 2010. This award by the Health Promotion Board recognises ACP's efforts in promoting workplace health.

Fighting Plagiarism in Schools Today

In the late 1990s, there was great anticipation of how technology and the Internet were going to change the rules, which we had lived and learned by. During the next several years, the focus of discussion shifted from learning *about* technology to learning *with* technology.

Educators today are challenged by students themselves, regarding online liberalism and growing concerns about plagiarism. A study by The Center for Academic Integrity found that almost 80% of college students admit to cheating at least once.

The teachers naturally want to understand why students choose to copy and how to encourage them to write their own original work. Educators want to teach their students how to become better writers and how to use the content from the Internet in the right and appropriate manner.

Many people think of plagiarism as copying another's work or borrowing someone else's original ideas However, unknown to many, the terms like "copying" and "borrowing" can disguise the seriousness of the offense.

Copying today isn't as easy to spot as it used to be.

ACP's learning management system, CyberSphere, supports academic integrity through the integration of the leading academic anti-plagiarism detector, *Turnitin*. CyberSphere will be able to pick up plagiarism by students, both knowingly or accidentally. Turnitin uses proprietary search technology to check assignments against a large database of Internet sources and previously submitted student assignments.

Turnitin is Used by All Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) in Singapore

- Nanyang Technological University (NTU)
- National University of Singapore (NUS)
- Singapore Management University (SMU)
- SIM University (UniSIM)
- and all Polytechnics in Singapore
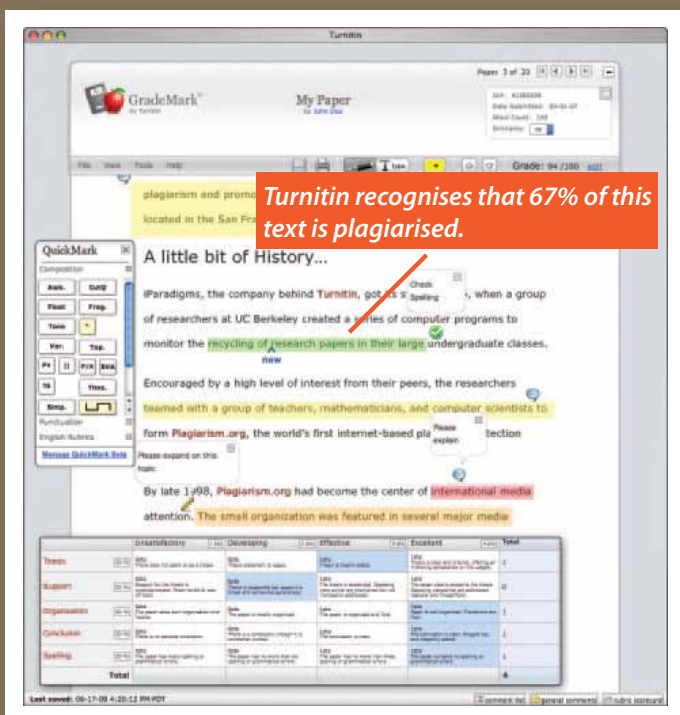
To know more about having an anti-plagiarism service in your school, please contact our sales representative below.

North Zone - Nurziana (9854 6684)
South Zone - Duc (9173 2854)
East & West Zones - Kum Seng (8102 2256)

Turnitin recognises that 67% of this text is plagiarised.

Screenshot from www.turnitin.com

ACP is the *exclusive partner* of Turnitin for K-12 schools.

Curriculum 2015: Being a Good Communicator Starts Here

When MOE launched the "Media Literacy Programme (MLP) for MOE schools" in July 2010, Unity Primary School saw the importance of the MLP as a means "to introduce and equip their students with the necessary media literacy skills so as to prepare them for a future where social and work literacy and competencies are increasingly being re-configured in web-based and media-centric environments"[1].

When asked how this course is beneficial for the pupils, Mrs Florence Tan, ICT HOD of Unity Primary School shared with us, "The prevalent use of ICT for the digital generation has been at the top of the list where our pupils are concerned. Whilst we recognise that ICT has revolutionised the ways of learning, many pupils are increasingly exposed to a vast amount of information via the various media, some of which may not be genuine. Therefore, we want our pupils to be perceptive and able to exercise their wisdom – to sieve out and utilise the good information. They also need to be equipped with the basic skills to handle cyber wellness issues."

Unity Primary School sees the MLP as a bridge to strengthen the quality of education in the school. It has always been the school's aim to develop itself "from good to great". Riding on the direction of Curriculum 2015 (C2015), Unity Primary School wants every pupil to be equipped with the competencies and life skills which are essential for his or her future working life as a global citizen.

"We find that the approach to the media literacy programme fulfils the objectives of self-directed and collaborative learning. Pupils get to learn how to work as a team, extracting information from the media, thereby creating their own media end products. I also like that the pupils get to present their own works, reinforcing the C2015 vision to groom our pupils to be good communicators. In Unity Primary School, every pupil matters and every pupil can be a good communicator. That is what we hope this media literacy programme will achieve – helping us to value-add to the learning process for all our students." quipped Mrs Tan.

Education is no longer limited to the passing of knowledge from teachers to students. Media literacy aims to nurture media-literate pupils who can critically evaluate and create media on their own, preparing them to be astute and holistic youths.

> **Fast Fact**
>
> Back in the 1980's media wasn't so proliferate. An individual could still manage to lessen his exposure to media without becoming a hermit. The only forms of popular media during that time were the newspapers, televisions and radios. But now with the advent of mobile devices, people can connect and be bombarded by media wherever they are.

Source

[1] *MOE circular, EDUN N 20-01-084,, "MEDIA LITERACY PROGRAMME FOR PRIMARY 4/5 AND SECONDARY 2/3 STUDENTS", 19 July 2010.*

Technology in the Classroom: Then and Now

The spread of technology in classrooms has become so rapid in recent years. What used to be the traditional pen, paper and chalkboard have been replaced by keyboards, laptops and touch-screen monitors.

Technology-based tools have now become essential in our classrooms. Instead of just issuing worksheets, teachers post assignments on e-learning portals so students can access them via their computer, while in school or at home.

Assignments are done in various forms of software. Now students can conduct experiments like growing plants using simulation programmes, as compared to the old days, where Science lessons consisted of actually growing a plant.

The use of YouTube brings experiments to life and allows students to learn from around the globe. Google Apps are used for administrating attendance and collaboration purposes. Even the popular Nintendo Wii gaming consoles are being used in a local school to aid learning.

Then vs Now

Blackboards to Smartboards

Books to Laptops

Evolution of Technology in Education

First Generation: Acquisation
Focused on obtaining the equipment and building infrastructure

Second Generation: Integration
Seeking effective strategies for using technology to support teaching and learning

Third Generation: Transformation
To focus on using technology to fundamentally reshape the nature of teaching and learning

The Future holds no bounds

The Future is Near
No one knows what the next revolutionary gadget will be, but if the past years are of any indication, then the next big thing could just be a few months away.

All we can be certain of is that when it comes, it will definitely change how we live our lives once again.

Our Luminaries

Camille Nunez, a PHP Developer, shares what it's like working for ACP.

It's been a year since I started working in ACP, and I have learnt a lot from my experiences here and am still continuously learning. ACP always gives us room to improve on not just our skills, but also our personality.

ACP allows us to explore and discover our true potential. They let us do the things that we can do best and build up on our other skills at the same time.

I remember when we were presenting our learning management system, CyberSphere, to some teachers, at first, I was so nervous. I'm not used to speaking in public, but after the presentation, I felt so proud that we were able to showcase the system that we built. We were able to see users actually using the system and what their opinions were about it.

Being a programmer is fun, especially if you have ACP on your side to support and guide you in achieving and learning.

Training Executive, Halimah Jamil, talks about her first impressions and working in ACP

Halimah Jamil is a self-starter and a driven individual. She has proven time and time again that success is determined by one's desire and drive to get things done.

Quoting her experience with ACP, Halimah narrated, "I joined ACP at the beginning of 2010. I remembered that during the interview Kevin, the HR manager, asked me how I got to know of ACP? Did I surf the net, he asked. I told him, after being in this industry for all these years, you tend to know who the major players are. So that is why I am here.

The interview was casual and I felt very comfortable or maybe it's just me; put me in front of someone and I'll just start talking. But the impression I got was, Hey! It looks like a nice bunch of people here. I can even hear laughter from the next room. Within weeks, I've met a few key personnel and every single one of them were pleasant to be with."

A firm believer in personal growth and improvement, Halimah openly admits feeling inadequate at times and is challenged to carry out her role in this ever changing IT world, but she quipped, "ACP has never failed to lend a helping hand. There was never a time when I tried to reach them in need of something and my cries were not answered."

If learning is about growing and facing up to challenges, then having a Training Executive like Halimah that personifies this is a definite advantage to all students.

2011
Year of The Rabbit

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Jan 24, 1984 1st Macintosh was introduced

February
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March 1, 1995 Yahoo Inc. was born

April
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Apr 28, 1997 1st ICT MasterPlan as launched
Apr 4, 1975 Microsoft was founded

May
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May 22, 1990 Microsoft launches Windows 3.0

June
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Jun 28, 1998, Microsoft launched Windows 98

July
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Jul 24, 2002 2nd ICT MasterPlan was launched

August
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Aug 5, 2008, 3rd ICT MasterPlan was launched

September
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Sept 4, 1998 Google was founded

October
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November
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Nov 12, 1990 World Wide Web was created

December
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Singapore Holidays for 2011

Jan 01	New Year's Day
Feb 03 & 04	Chinese New Year
Apr 22	Good Friday
May 01	Labour Day
May 17	Vesak Day
July 03	Youth Day
	(July 4 will be a scheduled school holiday)
Aug 09	National Day
Aug 30	Hari Raya Pussa
Sept 02	Teacher's Day
Oct 07	Children's Day
Oct 26	Deepavali
Nov 06	Hari Raya Haji
Dec 25	Christmas

Subject to latest available Indian Almanac. Holidays subject to change

Notes

School Holidays for 2011

Mar 12 -20	School Holidays Term 1
May 28 - June 26	School Holidays Term 2
Sept 03 -11	School Holidays Term 3
Nov 19 - Dec 31	School Holidays Term 4

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MOE LMS Launch @ Teachers Network

ACP launched our learning management system (LMS), CyberSphere Academy, at the Ministry of Education Teachers Network on October 26, 28 and 29, 2010.

During this event, we showcased CyberSphere's different features and capabilities to several schools and their representatives. We also showcased our exclusive partners and third-party applications that can be embedded into CyberSphere to ensure that you get only the best service.

Turnitin Talk @ NYGH

The creator and founder of Turnitin, Dr. John Barrie, gave a short talk last November 8, 2010 at the Nanyang Girls' High School theatre. He spoke on educating the students of today on the importance of academic integrity with the use of technology and how Turnitin can help prevent plagiarism in schools.

ACP, the exclusive partner of Turnitin for K-12 schools, also gave a short talk about our learning management system (LMS), CyberSphere.

SCORM 2004 Talk @ UNISIM

ACP was invited to be a speaker in the Annual E-learning Standards Seminar on Nov 11, 2010. The seminar was organised by the IT Standards Committee of Singapore and the School of Science and Technology of SIM University. Our Managing Director, Mr Alan Poh, presented on ACP's SCORM 2004 3rd Edition compliant learning management system (LMS), CyberSphere.

ACP @ Philippines

ACP recently had a four-day (Dec. 14-17, 2010) overseas attachment in the Philippines with telecommunications giant, Globe Telecom. Our Business Manager, Mulyadi, and Project Executive, Yew Hong, were there to provide Globe end-user training and change management services during the rollout of CyberSphere Enterprise, Globe's choice learning management system for their more than five thousand employees.

Teacher Scores English Award with HOLA

Hola
Your Best Online Buddy

Ms Rachel Poh of Ngee Ann Secondary School was one of ten innovative teachers who won "The Inspiring Teacher of English Award" for 2010. One of her secrets is that she uses HOLA (Heuristic Online Learning Agent) to teach. Her students interact with a Shakespeare bot using Window's Live Messenger and HOLA. HOLA allows her students to ask questions and speak to the Shakespeare bot just as if they were chatting to a real person, making learning really enjoyable. HOLA was developed by ACP.