

How educators and classroom work can benefit from Digital Media

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January 17, 2014

Abstract

Essentially, both media and digital media represent information through text, sound and images. However, only digital media have a valuable property of flexibility which enables to meet students diverse needs in a variety of instructional contexts. Particularly, this feature is important for storing and transmitting the information.

The history of inventions that provided mankind with storage mechanisms for communications lasts more than five thousand years and gave us a stone first, a parchment next and vinyl much later, just to name a few most distinguishable. Most of these innovations are similar in a way they apply one basic idea: a direct or encoded representation of information, for instance a letter or an image, is taken and physically embedded in a medium such as paper or vinyl, where it becomes permanent. On the contrary, in digital media the process of storing content is very different from the one described. Instead of embedding information in a physical medium, it is rather transformed into something abstract (binary representation); this gives an opportunity to present it in various medium, as well as easily transfer from one medium to another.

Digital media can be characterized by outstanding set features. They enable us to reliably save text, images or a speech. At the same time, digital media are extremely flexible just to recall how and where they can be redisplayed. While a particular content is reliably fixed in a traditional medium, it can quite easily be accessed, changed, edited or modified. The latter characteristic of digital medium is very advantageous for a teacher and his dynamic and diverse classroom. In particular, there are few aspects of digital mediums flexibility that are especially useful for the classroom application, such as versatility, abilities to be transformed and marked, and the ability to be networked. The following paper contains a detailed examination of these aspects and their benefits for teachers and classroom work.