

Keeping up to date: What I need to know about assistive technology research



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Presentation Outline

- Provide an overview of the assistive technology research literature.
- Provide tools for:
 - Locating, Sharing and Documenting research and good practice in assistive technology.



Presentation Information

Information and documents relating to this presentation can be found @

<http://gregoconnor.wikispaces.com/>



Why Research?

“...delicate balance between no-holds-barred openness to new ideas...and the most rigorous sceptical scrutiny of everything – new ideas and established wisdom.”

Carl Sagan

<http://www.carlsagan.com/>



Definition

Assistive technology “is a combination of the processes and tools involved in addressing educational needs and problems of students with disabilities with an emphasis on applying the most current tools: computers and their related technologies”



Definitions

Assistive Technology

Digital Technologies

E-inclusion



e-inclusion

- Emphasises interaction between digital tools, contexts and people
- Focuses on the activity of the use of the technology by or with people

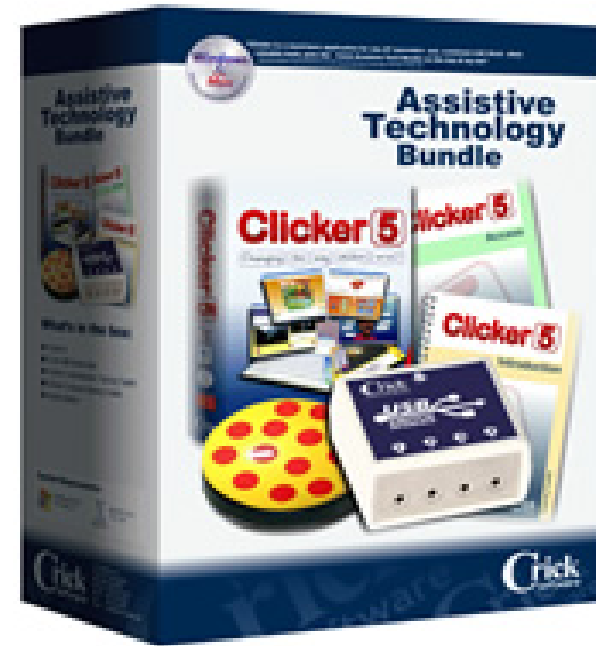
Abbott, C. (2007). ***E-inclusion: Learning Difficulties and Digital Technologies***

<http://tinyurl.com/digital-inclusion>

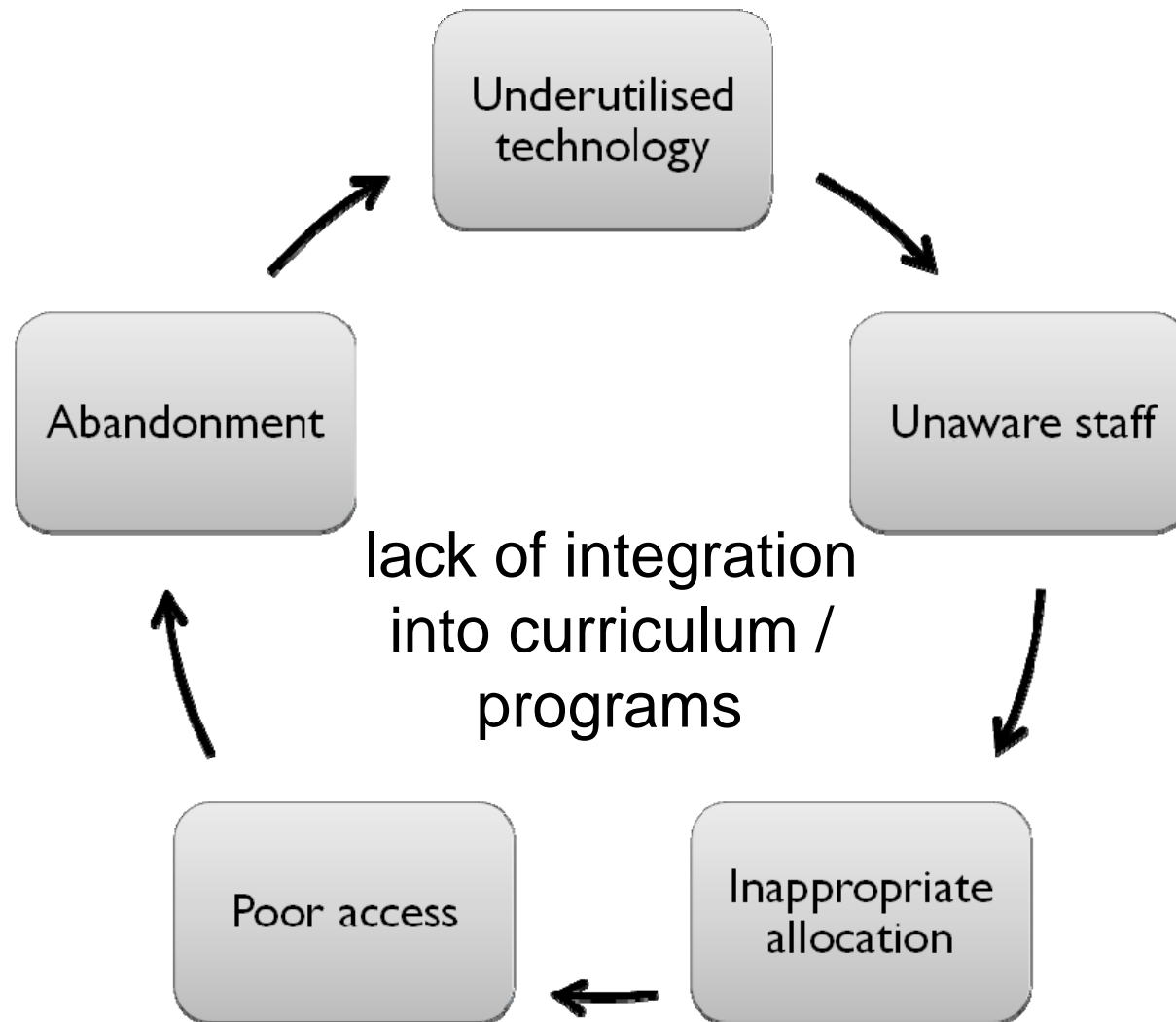


Dynamic

- In 2003 there were 25,000 products available.



Making Informed decisions: Baseline



Assistive Technology Research

- The research base is emerging
- Little published peer-reviewed research concerning the impact of assistive technology on learning
- Limited in scope and rigor
- Technologically determinist perspective



Barriers to Use

Lack of:

- Knowledge
- Training
- Funding
- System support
- Leadership
- Research
- Data driven decisions



Barriers to Use

“special education teachers are using technology to accommodate and adapt curriculum without the use of research or data-driven decision-making processes to guide practice”

Castellani & Castelleni (2005)



BUT.....

there is documented research and good practice available. BUT where?



What does the research say?

Dave Edyburn - What have we learnt lately?

www.uwm.edu/~edyburn



Journals

Closing The Gap

<http://www.closingthegap.com>

Journal of Special Education Technology

jset.unlev.edu

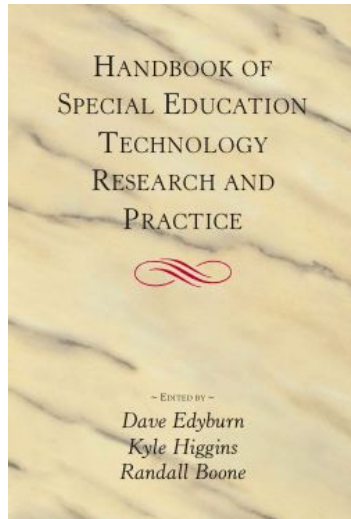


Journals

- Special Education Technology Practice
www.setp.net
- Assistive Technology Outcomes and Benefits
www.atia.org/atob/ATOBWeb
- Learning and Leading with Technology
www.iste.org
- Assistive technology Journal
<http://www.resna.org/ProfResources/Publications/ATJournal.php>



Books and Publications



Handbook of Special Education Technology Research and Practice

www.spectronicsinoz.com



Abbott (2007) E-Inclusion: Learning Difficulties and Digital Technologies

www.futurelab.org.uk



Research Web Links

CITEd's Research Center

www.cited.org

TechMatrix

www.techmatrix.org



Blogs

<http://teachinglearnerswithmultipleneeds.blogspot.com>

Resources and ideas for teachers of learners with severe, profound, intensive, significant, complex or multiple special needs.

<http://www.alltogetherwecan.com/>

Sam Sennott Blog.

<http://teachingeverystudent.blogspot.com>

Karen Janowski's Teaching Every Student Blog.



Listservs / E-Newsletter

SENIT

lists.becta.org.uk/mailman/listinfo/senit

QIAT

natri.uky.edu/assoc_projects/qiat/signup.html



Sharing / Networking

Del.icio.us

<http://del.icio.us/ocgreg>

AssitiveTech

<http://assistivetech.ning.com/>



Search

Google Scholar

<http://scholar.google.com.au/>

Directory of (Re)search Tools

www.c4lpt.co.uk/Directory/Tools/research.html



Storing / Documenting

- Endnote



Data driven decision making

- Can we wait for the research community to catch up?
- Australian context
- Action Research

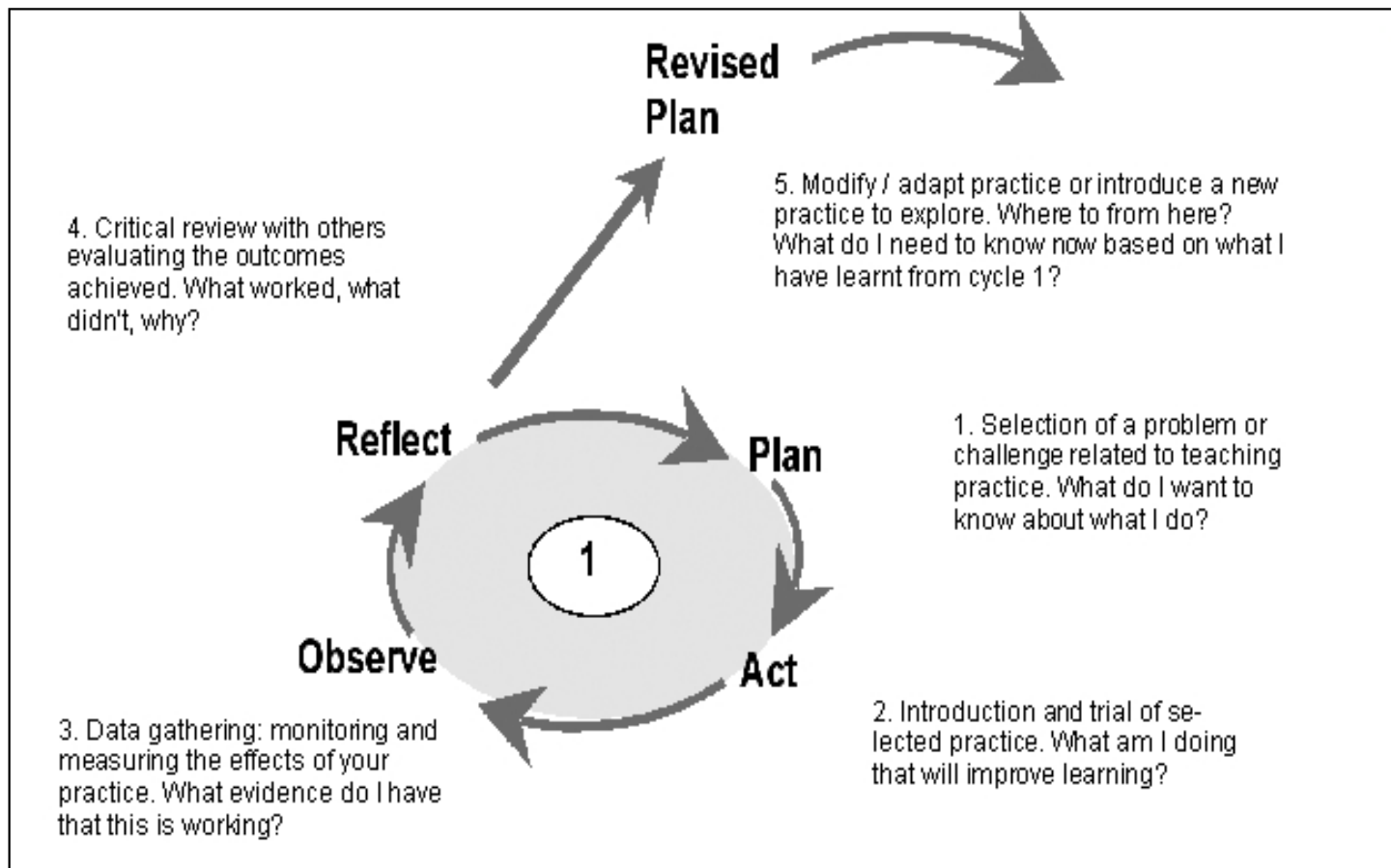
“Investigations conducted by and for the people taking the action, on their own action to inform their future actions”

Richard Sagor (2005)



Action research: A teacher-centred approach for self-improving schools

1. *How effective is my practice in the work that I do?*
2. *What actions can I take that will achieve outcomes for my students?*



Future Research?

- Response to Intervention
- Differentiating Instruction
- Universal Design for Learning
- Social Inclusion / Social Justice
- Web 2.0





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Dr. Caroline Musselwhite
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