

Project Online ECIJANOS: Using digital imaging and video technology to enhance instruction, administration, and documentation

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Rationale

In recognition of the need to make Information and Communication Technology (ICT) widely accessible and available to the students and teachers in basic education, considering the limited capacity of bringing ICT equipment in the public schools and understanding the benefits of adapting modernization and technological advancement in educational system, the Department of Education (DepED) Division of Nueva Ecija deemed it significant to introduce Project Online ECIJANOS in public schools.

Objectives

Project Online ECIJANOS adheres the following in digital technology:

1. introduce and apply basic digital technology in instruction, administration and documentation;
2. equip teachers, administrators and students with basic and relevant skills and knowledge in basic digital imaging and video technology; and
3. prepare electronic and digital school profiles, documentaries, reports and instructional materials to enhance teaching, learning and administration.

Project Activities

Project Online ECIJANOS stands for the following activities:

E-mpowerment of school personnel

C-reation of Curriculum Materials

I-ntegration of ICT in Instruction

J-oining DepED ICT programs

A-daptering technological systems

N-urturing students learning

O-pening ICT to all, and

S-earching for Computer Wizards and Best Practices in Technology Integration

Accomplishments

Initially, the focus of this activity is the preparation of school profiles and reports, then production of instructional materials and preparation of school documentation. After the digital technology training, ICT in the Division of Nueva Ecija is believed to be more accessible, broad and informative. Teaching becomes more interesting and easy. In larger extent, it broadens horizons in the teaching of journalism, broadcasting, reporting,

creative writing and computer education in general. It also extends to possible livelihood and simple business venture among teachers to augment their other needs.

In return, we have started, produced and applied instructional materials and documentaries in the form of reports, short story, photo story, demonstrations, lectures and trivia that contributed in giving excellent alternative solution to uplift the quality of education to the Filipino youth despite its many problems. In fact, media production team has been officially created in the division regarding this area.

Benefits

Traditional administrators, staff, teachers, students and practitioners in preparing documentary used to work with pens, typewriters and analogue devices before. With the advent of digital technology, beginners and professionals now work with word processing, computer editing and layouting softwares that have capacities and thus can store and create digital copies in just one click.

People in the community, administrators, teachers and students can now communicate and share their creative reports and instructional materials with the use of computers and Internet. This paradigm shows that digital technology in instruction improves and motivates individuals in education to desire for fulfillment - the desire to be the best that he could be.

Digitally enhanced-teaching materials could be introduced as early as in grade one, when a child is already able to read simple sentences and express ideas and feelings. The digital technology may produce reading materials, literary pieces, mathematical concepts and social activities. In the administration, non-teaching personnel and community, it served as reference for dissemination of information and documentation. It could also serve as materials for production and livelihood project for communities.

These materials were able to develop certain simple skills to achieve multimedia proficiencies. An integrated life-long learning is needed leading to self discovery and understanding of life's realities and mirrors the lifestyle and concerns of the current generation with infusion of moral values. It served as tools to empower the young people. Among the materials that could be prepared digitally are photo story lessons, concepts and processes in different disciplines, demonstrations in science, math, technology, livelihood education, and literatures such as rhymes, short stories and others.

Management Strategies

Preparing instructional materials, reports and documentaries could serve as collaborative project for people both in school and in the community. This is to allow individuals and entities to be creative on their own. There are few certain rules for preparing documentaries and instructional materials but with proper guidance, anybody can produce more interesting topics in preparing documentaries and reports. Recently, the DepED Nueva Ecija formally introduced digital technology among teachers and principals through rigid training and orientation. Exposure of the advantages,

conveniences and the capabilities of digital imaging and video technology made them realize the importance and necessity of this advanced experience in educational system.

Since there is dramatic paradigm shifts in the teaching and learning process brought about by ICT, greater participation is also expected from the teachers, parents and stakeholders. They may want to share and assist in the preparation of digital instructional devices for the students, be inspired by the advantages of ICT and not be afraid of ICT advancement. People that can discuss the pains as well as the joys of digital documentation and preparation of instructional materials are now shared responsibility.

Issues and Challenges

The introduction of digital technology in public school is indeed a difficult task --- simply because of lack of computers and training. Teachers and school administrators are still pessimistic on the advantages of ICT in instruction and administration. Students have become more aware and more knowledgeable about Internet applications as email and chat, cyber games, and surfing with negative impacts to them. Because of these, teachers and administrators of today should learn to balance technological advancements. Useful as it is now, the teaching materials and documentation needs to be updated and repackaged to make it more attractive to target learners.

Trying to empathize with the concerns of the "generation now," as a whole is an honest exploration of the current milieu from the traditional way of presenting lessons. The introduction of digital technology in the Division of Nueva Ecija may be viewed by others as irreverent. It was also questioned and doubted by higher officials – “Will it improve the academic achievement of students?” Eventually, disturbing comments boosted the program – a courageous struggle for the triumph of goodness and love, and for becoming advocate of digital technologies in making excellent citizens of the world.

This seemingly "irreverent and disturbing" idea perhaps accounted for the withholding of the few necessary points by the Division with permission and inclusion in the list of approved specialized training to possibly produce supplementary leaning materials for public schools. This program resulted to what is acceptable content that could help a lot to the educational content developers, teachers, principals and even parents.

They are now expecting ICT team to create and produce quality and applicable instructional materials which are beneficial and socially-relevant documentaries to alleviate the plaguing condition of our educational system. We know, we want the education of our students to be holistic; not just to make them functionally literate, get jobs after graduation, but to enable them to experience and acquire life-long learning skills with the right attitude and values through ICT.

At present, there are 25 secondary and few elementary schools in the Division producing documentaries and instructional materials in their own rights. The public schools for which it is intended will benefit number of students and teachers hoping these materials will be included in the DepED list of approved learning materials. This is the reason why some education stakeholders are hesitant to donate such materials and so with other amateur documentary makers and teachers that halted good ideas from the

field. If ever or only DepED will call for submission of learning materials, then the preparation of digital documentaries and instructional materials will surely hit the mark.

Conclusion

Preparation of digital documentation and instructional materials is indeed one of the most advanced and challenging activities. Principals, parents, teachers and even stakeholders should support this very exciting tool of empowerment for young people. All sectors of society must give support to it. For instance, the Commission on Information and Communication Technology (CICT), Philippine Information Agency (PIA) and Instructional Materials Development Program of DepED should consider these digitally-enhanced teaching materials as ideal and innovative program. They may give incentives, awards and grants to digital educational advocates and content developers.

We hope that the DepED will try and consider digital teaching and learning materials to people with wide range of interests in ICT, and to those with conscious and collaborative efforts to understand the interests and concerns of the youth not only in the key cities but foremost to the provinces and remote areas throughout the Philippines. We are really behind with our neighboring countries especially in terms of modern digital technology. It is my hope that *Digital Technology in Instruction*, imperfect and baby as it is, will pave the way and give birth for many more projects that will optimize ICTs for educational purposes.