Looking to the future: M-learning with the iPad

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Abstract
Might Apple’s new iPad gain unprecedented traction in education, or is just another example of the over-hyping of new devices in a time of technological determinism (Postman, 2000)? This paper explores the potential affordances and limitations of the Apple iPad in the wider context of emergent mobile learning theory, and the social and economic drivers that fuel technology development. Against the background of effective teaching and learning, the functionality offered by the iPad, and its… Read more

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Its online learning platform, The Edge, is deliberately fashioned to look like the BBC’s iPlayer. Its content is never more than three clicks away and it is being accessed by organically-emerging communities of users within Dixons. He is referring to the future-gazing rhetoric of the thinkers/influencers in this space. “Formal versus informal content was where we were two years ago. “Trainers still have scepticism - even with products such as iPads,” he says. “Most is perceived fear rather than reality, and if they read the growing body of research around 'learning environments' [this, he says, is the next big area - places that are familiar to people, either digital or physical], they would see it's a real opportunity.” The iPad and the Apple Pencil are an amazing combo for sketching and painting, but the real work goes on inside your head. Here’s how to learn to draw in any medium, with some extra iPad-only tricks. But first, there’s good news and bad news. The good news is that you already know how to draw — you just need to learn how to look . The bad news is that the only way to improve is to practice. A lot. There’s no shortcut. You just have to do a lot of drawing. Forget about photorealistic copies. There are lots of learn-to-draw methods that don’t actually teach you to draw or paint. They’re aimed at helping you to get a photorealistic pictures onto paper (or screen). If not photorealistic, then an accurate copy of some manga, or a cool drawing of a dragon. Learning with iPad focuses on using the iPad to learn at all ages, with sections highlighting learning through play, programming, exploring space through apps like Star Walk 2, using textbooks in iBooks, using apps like Notability and Coursera for learning, and exploring free courses on iTunes U. Hobby-based apps are also included in a “Never stop learning” section. Tim Cook has remained optimistic about iPad sales, however, suggesting that the company’s future product pipeline (which includes the rumored “iPad Pro”) and its efforts in the enterprise market will ultimately cause iPad sales to grow again. “I believe the iPad is an extremely good business over the long-term,” he said.