



PARTNERSHIP FOR 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

AASL Focus Group Notes

Forum:

- Date: 10/24/03
- Location: Kansas City, MO
- P21 moderator: Susan Saltrick

Host organization contact info

- Key contact name: Julie Walker
- Title: Executive Director AASL & YALSA
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Participants:

- Background info on those in attendance: This group of 20 librarians was drawn from across the country, at both elementary and high school levels, with a few university library science faculty as well.
- Number and names: 18 (see list attached)

FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS: (items of particular interest in **bold**)

Assessment (Q#5): How might assessment strategies fit into the existing ICT Literacy framework? Are you aware of examples of assessment strategies that measure ICT Literacy achievement? Are these examples reliable and valid?

- This was a tough question for the group to get their arms around. They noted first of all that assessment requires clear and commonly understood definitions, and felt more could be done to make our definitions simple.
- They also asked if all literacies were equal – or is there a hierarchy? **Are there perhaps some “meta-skills” that take cut across all the literacies (for example, information skills)?**
- They also asked how one measures improvement. For example, can the same task be performed equally well by different tools?

ICT Definition (Q#1): How might the definition of ICT Literacy be refined and enhanced?

- In our definition, they felt that the “Learning Skills + 21st century tools” formulation seemed to set the skills and tools as equivalent. Yet are they? Do we see the technology as equal to the learning skills, or are the latter more important?
- They would also like to see a 2-3 sentence definition of ICT Literacy.
- **Also, they suggested we stress the notion that literacy has levels – basic literacy for 1st graders differs from that for adults, and the same should apply to ICT literacy as well.** Build a taxonomy or hierarchy here. Illustrate these levels with best practice examples.
- Post-its: “Simplify, put it in plain teacher language, relate to common experience.” “Holistic learning: Technology skills (use), Information processing (thinking), Communication (output, products, creation, creativity). “How are we defining information literacy vs. info tech literacy vs. tech literacy?”

(Q#2): a) What do educational leaders and teachers need to know to help them move their schools from good examples to good practice? Our outreach efforts suggest that the leadership process to promote ICT literacy in our schools requires that those leaders

be ICT literate. b) What are the best means of helping teachers and other educational leaders hone their ICT skills so that they can, in turn, promote them among their students?

a) Ed Leaders need to know:

- ITC standards/benchmarks
- individual state & district standards
- the rubric of novice to exemplary for ICT literacy
- where to find professional development opportunities to help teachers learn
 - how to use ICT tools to perform learning skills
 - how to infuse ICT into everyday instruction (integration)
 - how to use ICT tools to develop higher (critical) thinking, problem solving, information literacy
 - the research that supports ICT literacy (**Teachers need the evidence that this is really going to make a difference for their kids in order to make the investment of their scarce time, "Time is a 4-letter word for teachers."**)

b) Best means of helping to hone ICT skills:

- Awareness campaign (**Jan noted she's had a lot of success in this area with teachers in her use of a video "e-Literate" produced by the Pac-Bell UCLA initiative. She provided an address and I'll follow up.** www.newliteracies.gseis.ucla.edu
 - For Community members
 - Administrators/policy makers
 - Educators
- Train the trainers model – state by state
- Provide tools for self-assessment – **a simpler teacher-oriented version of the MILE guide is needed for the ICT skills a teacher should have**
- Simple training materials
- Ongoing funding for training
- Access to technology tools
- Samples of best practice (the group here noted the need to set criteria for and define just what best practice is)

(Q# 3): What approaches to professional development do you think would be most helpful in this process? Do you know of any highlighted examples of professional development that promote ICT literacy for teachers?

- **This group asked us to be more explicit about reading being a part of ICT Literacy.** {FYI, we used to show Basic Skills + Learning Skills + 21st Century Tools = ICT Literacy, maybe we need to consider something like this again?}
- They echoed the sentiments of Group Q#2, noting that teachers need proof statements of why ICT is important. **They also suggested that collaborations between schools of ed and schools of media/library science should be fostered as co-creators of professional development for ICT literacy.**
- Specific suggestions for schools to enact included:
 - Develop learning communities that link teachers to their dept to their school
 - Build support systems (troubleshooting, mentoring, online help, tech buddies)
 - Take ownership
 - Use leadership (e.g., train the trainer)
 - Provide opportunities to practice (low-risk)
 - Show assured outcomes for students
 - **Create list of necessary skills and incorporate in professional goals**

- Provide equipment (still an issue)
- Provide state and district rubrics, requirements
- Provide regular assessment of success
- Create a PD plan of action (models)
- Promote teachable ideas
- All of the above should be enacted FLEXIBLY

AASL Literacy Focus Group Participant List: 10/24/03	
Partnership Staff	
NAME	Company/School
Susan Saltrick	Partnership Research Manager
Participants Attended	
NAME	Company/School
Ann Marie Pipkin	Hoover High School
Betty Marcoux	University of Washington
Carl Harvey	North Elementary School
Cassandra Barnett	Fayetteville High School
Catherine Marriott	Orchard Park Schools
Daniel Callison	Indiana University
Deana Beecher	Decatur Central High School
Debbie Abilock	San Francisco School
Elizabeth Crawford-Reisz	York School Department
Francine Eppelsheimer	University School of Milwaukee
Irene Kwidzinski	Northville School
Jan Weber	Hawthorne Elementary
Ken Stewart	Blue Valley High School
Leslie Preddy	Perry Meridian Middle School
Martha Taylor	McCants Middle School
Melinda Greenblatt	Archdiocese of New York
Nita Garcia	Greenglade Elementary School
Sara Johns	Lake Placid Middle/Senior High School