TITLE

Digital literacy mentoring

KEY CONCEPTS

Mentoring, digital-literacy, international, team-work, CPD

NARRATIVE OVERVIEW

Three teachers are working together to develop their own digital literacy and the digital literacy of their students.

Salla, one of the three teachers, is more experienced in effective use of digital technologies and the development of students' digital literacy. She acts as peer-supporter or 'digital-literacy mentor' to Martin and Maria, her colleagues.

The teachers work together to share expertise and support each other as they plan projects that support students' digital literacy. Salla works alongside the other two teachers to help them plan and also to observe and evaluate their efforts. Occasionally and when appropriate, the teachers team-teach.

The teachers also have access to an international digital literacy mentors' forum that has advice and tips on supporting other teachers' digital literacy. This online space includes experts and events that connect the digital literacy mentors to each other and current research, both on mentoring other teachers and developing digital literacy in teachers and students.

TREND/S

Beyond the tool
The web and current digital tools offer great opportunities for information seeking and knowledge creation, but they also pose challenges, such as coping with too much information and the lack of quality control. Therefore, there is an increasing emphasis on teachers' digital literacy, less in terms of mastering specific tools, and more in terms of developing a critical attitude, in order to observe and evaluate the information-seeking and knowledge-building activities of students.

A new professionalism
There has been lately a great emphasis on teacher professionalism. It appears that many education systems have come to the conclusion that the quality of teachers is the most important factor to improve learning. This is leading to incentives for those teachers deemed to be good, to tighter recruitment of graduates, and stricter controls on the quality of teaching.

VISION (ASPIRATIONS & AIMS)

- to support action-based teacher collaboration and professional development through the fostering of student's digital literacy

ENVIRONMENT

- school classrooms
- online forum/space to share good practice

PEOPLE & ROLES

- teachers – supporting each other
- teachers as mentors
- students developing their digital literacy

INTERACTIONS (INCL. PEDAGOGIES)

- teacher interaction both between schools and within schools
- teachers and students developing their digital literacy

ACTIVITIES

- team-training
- team-project-planning
- evaluating
- observing
- managing own CPD

RESOURCES (INCL. TECHNOLOGIES)

- a digital-literacy forum/online space where mentors share experiences/best practice. Also includes links to other research and other teacher forums eg Promethean Planet, Learn Central