

Curriculum and Pedagogy in Technology Assisted Learning

CAPITAL is a research project undertaken jointly by the University of Nottingham (Learning Sciences Research Institute and Teaching and Leadership Research Centre) and Sero Consulting Ltd, working in association with Becta.

The aim of the project is to carry out research into the future of learning with technology, including trends, disruptions and new modes of learning, to inform the next stage of the Becta Harnessing Technology Strategy. It covers all education sectors and a broad range of topics such as assessment; teaching approaches; formal and informal learning; personalisation and differentiation.

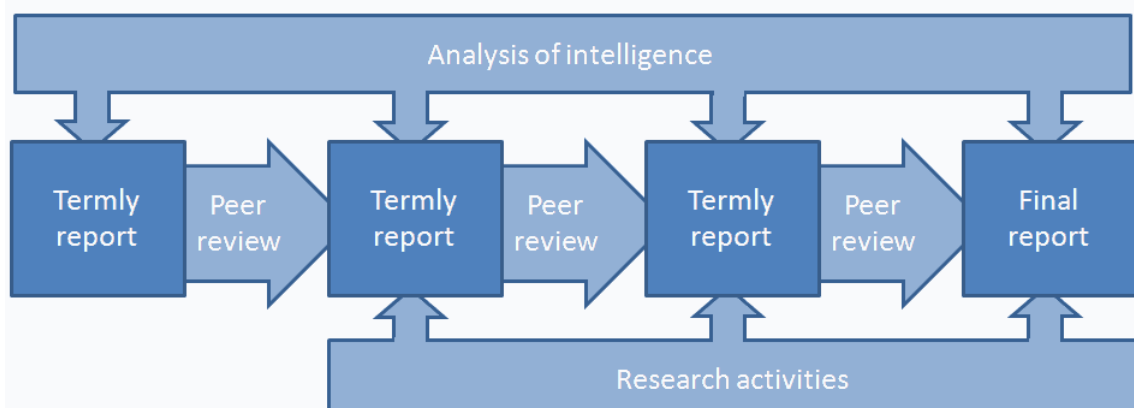
The work is being undertaken between April 2008 and March 2009.

The project is structured into three iterative cycles, one per term, focused on an integrated programme of research activities, analysis of intelligence, and peer review. We aim to identify the dominant directions of technology in our current educational system, the range and scope of identified innovations and the opportunities to improve educational and learning impacts given the anticipated evolution of technologies over the next 3-5 years.

In addition to scanning the existing research literature in technology-enhanced learning and monitoring current practices, the project incorporates a series of related activities by which the project team will engage with the wider community:

- » Expert Reference Group: A core group of 20 leading experts representing interests across all the educational sectors has been convened to contribute to and offer critical peer review of the ongoing research findings.
- » Joint Symposia with ALT: Two events (Nov 08 & Feb 09) will be run jointly with the Association for Learning Technology, drawing upon a wider cross-section of senior opinion formers from academia, practice, industry and policy to assess and refine project insights.
- » 'Sandpits': Workshops for education technology professionals focused on the evaluation and design of emerging educational technology innovations.
- » Commissioned Action Research Studies: Targeted investigations with partner organisations and/or groups into an aspect of technology-enhanced learning which is currently under-researched.
- » Case Studies: Snapshot accounts of particular activities that either provide an existence-proof of a particular approach or that offer some form of illumination into how a practice operates.
- » Witness Interviews: Personal accounts and reflections on educational change involving the use of technology.
- » Consultation exercise: Testing the implications of project findings among a wider grouping of representatives across all sectors.

The CAPITAL research model is illustrated here:



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The project's final integrative report will be submitted to Becta in March 2009. Interim findings including Horizon Scans and Trends Analysis reports will be made available during each of the three terms of the project. A series of case studies will also be generated for use by practitioners.

CAPITAL is one of three research projects funded by Becta, to support the next phase of the Harnessing Technology strategy. For details of the other strands visit the Becta Managed Research 2008/09 pages Harnessing Technology research programme (http://partners.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=rh&catcode=_re_mr_02&rid=14900).

CAPITAL is led by Professor Mike Sharples, Head of LSRI at The University of Nottingham, and David Kay, Strategic Development Director at Sero Consulting, and involves researchers from both organisations. The project manager is Dr Ian Chowcat, Head of Learning Innovation at Sero.

"The goals of Harnessing Technology are vital for the future of education in a digital age and for the life chances of future generations. The work of CAPITAL can play an important part in helping educators and policy makers ensure our education and skills system remains at the leading edge." David Kay, Strategic Development Director, Sero Consulting

"The next generation of education must offer seamless access to technology that enables deep and appropriate learning. The CAPITAL project will ensure that development of the Harnessing Technology strategy is informed by evidence-led research into the theory and practice of learning with technology for the 21st century." Professor Mike Sharples, Head of LSRI, The University of Nottingham

Core Project teams for CAPITAL are as follows:

The University of Nottingham		Sero Consulting Ltd	
Prof Mike Sharples		David Kay	
Prof Chris Day	Researchers: Dr Ian Jones Eleanor Stokes	Dr Ian Chowcat	Prof Paul Bacsich
Dr Charles Crook		Barry Phillips	Giles Pepler
Dr Caroline Windrum		John Popham	Seb Schmoller
Dr Elizabeth Hartnell-Young		Walter Patterson	Dr Bill Lockitt
Dr Brett Bligh		Kevin Donovan	Liz Wallis
			Researcher: Kim Balmer

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The University of
Nottingham

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