What might the IMC look like oriented to the future of education technology? Virtual classrooms and collaboration tools are two emerging trends that will revolutionize the way we teach (and students learn). But far from technology for technology’s sake, future educators must ensure that pedagogy takes precedence and drives the meaningful use of technology.

This principle of integrated technology is reflected in the TPACK model, which combines technology (T) with both pedagogy (P) and content knowledge (CK). TPACK links what is being learned (content) with...
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how it is being taught (pedagogy), as well as how technological tools are being used to support the learning process (technology). As Haydn suggests, technology should be used in a broad context to help students make connections through illustrations or demonstrations, analogies, examples, and explanations.

The TPACK model applies not only to elementary and secondary education, but also to our MU students studying to be teachers. Many local schools are incorporating tools such as iPads, interactive whiteboards, and document cameras to facilitate learning. Teachers are using Skype to bring speakers from remote locations into the classroom. It makes sense that MU students be familiar with these tools in order to support those elementary and secondary classrooms. Moreover, this educational technology has the potential to strengthen students’ learning experiences at the university.

The IMC is taking steps to increase its technological footprint by researching scenarios, exploring tools, and identifying opportunities to apply innovative technology. Could the IMC become a learning lab where university students have access to a wide range of educational technology that facilitates learning and informs their teaching methods? We would love to make that happen!

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The Instructional Materials Center (IMC) supports Education faculty and students in their pursuit of knowledge about pedagogy, curriculum, and instruction. The IMC holds a wide range of collections including curriculum materials, lesson plans and classroom activities, picture books, chapter books, and textbooks. Faculty are encouraged to contact Kate Lucey, Education Librarian to provide library instruction. These classes are held either in the IMC or other library facilities. This particular newsletter has been dedicated to the topic of educational technology, so we restate our goal to increase the technology presence of the IMC in order to stay relevant for the educators of today and tomorrow.