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What's Next? The Future of Existing Educational Technologies
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# The Future of Technology

## Introduction

It has been said that where meeting the educational needs of students is concerned, the most serious problem is "the general lack of imagination about the possibilities of technology (Bates & Sangra, 2011). While Distance Learning has evolved over the past five generations, its development since the introduction of technology has been rapid. Consequently, many are now asking, what's next? Well, according to Bates and Sangra, the most serious obstacle in this regard is that of a lack of imagination. In this paper I will travel into the future, offering a prediction of what technology will look like in 5-10 year, an explanation of its evolution and possible ways in which technology will be used.

Education extends beyond the brick and mortar classroom and print media. School systems have incorporated the use of technology as standard operating procedure Digital textbooks, podcasts, computer conferencing, web-based learning, online gaming, and mobile technology have become integral components of the educator's toolbox. As a result, students with varying learning styles and needs (i.e., non-English language learners and the disabled) are being given opportunities to gain "skills and competencies" that are essential in a knowledge-based economy.

My prediction is that over the next 5-10 years, Web 3.0 (aka The Semantic Web) and use of mobile technology will be prevalent in distance learning. Their combined use witll will help contribute to the dissolution of boundaries and the expansion of the borders of learning for students. As a result, students will sharpen their (1) communication skills, (2) independent learning abilities; (3) social skills; (4) abilities to work with diverse teams; (5) adapt; (6) think globally, and (6) navigate in a technological world (Bates, 2011). An analysis of how the role the above-referenced technologies will play in the next 5-10 years and how they influence the development of knowledge-based learning skills follows.

## Analysis

Web 3.0

"Pedagogical agents support learning by interacting with learners and instructors, and collaborating with other agents enabling the flow of content and information in an interactive learning environment (Morris, 2011). The communal nature of Web 3.0 will contribute to the flow of content and information between agents (in this case students). Students will benefit from this expansion of borders. This will contribute to the transformation of national educational system into a global community of learners,

which will be enhanced by the integration of instantaneous translations of both content and dialogue.

Students will benefit from Web 3.0's ability to "analyze students' learning styles, preferred learning activities and apply relevant teaching/learning methods (Kurilovast, Kubilinskiene, & Dagiene, 2014), It's intelligent design and automatic detection functionality will enable personalization of resources to meet specific student needs, which will enhance individual and group learning. As a result, there will be increases in the numbers of user specific tools, resources and applications, ultimately contributing to every student's success as an independent learner.

Mobile Technology

Use of mobile devices (i.e., "any type of learning that takes place in learning environments and spaces that take account of the mobility of technology, mobility of learners,and mobility of learning") in the classroom will increase (Rossing, Miller, Cecil, & Stamper, 2012). The current trend of schools to require students to have a laptop or tablet (versus physical school books) will become the norm. The increase in web-based educational tools will lead to reevaluation of the effectiveness of the traditional school year. Schools will increasingly adopt e-learning tools, which will include student

assessments and enrichment activities that can be completed via Mobile Technology.

Teaching will become highly student centric.

## Conclusion

To keep pace with the rate of change, educational institutions must constantly re-evaluate their technology and make necessary adjustments along the way.  Web 3.0 and Mobile Technologies will facilitate universal learning.  The heavy reliance on technology will demand Teachers-student and student-student learning will be positively influenced by the creative use of technology.  Which will require identification obsolete tools and dedicated resources in the form of human and technological resources.  To prepare for what lies ahead governments and educational systems must think outside of the box and embrace unconventional approaches that will contribute to the success of this and future generations and continued technological advancement.

**References**

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