

INTERACTIVE WHITE-BOARDS: CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS!

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Abstract:

IWB's are installed in nearly every school all over Europe. However often is seen that those high-tech tools are just used as the old school boards. The interaction is very often missed. Indeed IWB's are still one step ahead in the technology, but two steps back in the didactics. *It seems that Interactive Whiteboards (IWB) have recently been causing some controversy. Some people seem to be dead set against them. Surprisingly, it is not the anti-technologists or the technophobes who are against them, this time it seems to be some of the leading lights of technology who are decrying their use.* (<http://doug-woods.blogspot.com/2006/09/interactive-whiteboards-and-teaching.html>)

The past 12 months the [ED+ict]-research unit studied the impact of the IWB's and what is needed to learn teachers to integrate IWB's in their teaching practice. Four actions were taken to study the IWB's:

1. Participation at the SIRikt-conference in Slovenia (April 2009). This conference was dedicated to the use of IWB's.
2. Studying some books about the use of IWB's.
3. Visiting schools in the UK, where IWB's have already been introduced for a longer period.
4. A desktop research about IWB's. There are already written a lot of scientific papers about the IWB's.

This resulted in a SWOT-Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) about the IWB's. What is remarkable is that IWB's have as well strong points and opportunities, but there are also weaknesses and threats. It seems important that teachers should be aware of all those aspects of IWB's, before starting to use the IWB's intensively in the teaching practice. In this paper and presentation the SWOT-analysis will be presented, together with some advices for teachers. The conclusion from one year studying the IWB's is: "... *teachers should be offered technologies, not have them imposed upon them.*" ([Interactive Whiteboards: real beauty or just lipstick?](#))

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