

# Reaching Every Learner with Digital Technology

Paul Hamilton

November 6 & 7, 2010

East Asia Regional Council of Overseas Schools—Weekend Workshop  
Hosted by International Christian School, Hong Kong



## Workshop Description:

The purpose of this two-day workshop is to introduce participants to an extensive set of high quality free digital resources. It will be shown how these resources can be used to help meet the diverse range of learning needs that exist in every classroom. It is important that each learner assemble a “toolbelt” of effective learning tools and supports. The most effective toolbelt can only be acquired by each unique learner as he or she is introduced to a range of options.

[Universal Design for Learning](#) (UDL) will provide the theoretical framework for the workshop; and the workshop will begin with a brief illustrated overview of UDL, with reference to supporting research. This overview will show how curriculum can be designed so that it offers genuine and effective learning opportunities for every student, regardless of individual background, strengths, needs and interests. The [role of differentiated instruction in UDL](#) will be addressed.

The introductory overview of UDL will zero in on the three fundamental UDL principles--offering learners multiple means of representation, multiple means of action and expression, and multiple means of engagement. Following the overview of UDL’s theoretical framework, the workshop will shift to a consideration of specific software and applications. There will be demonstrations of programs that install on a user’s computer, as well as online applications. Participants will have opportunity for hands-on exploration of resources that are introduced.

**Each participant will be expected to bring his or her own laptop and it is recommended that Firefox be installed on it.** Both Windows (XP, Vista, Windows 7) and Mac laptops will be welcome; and software for both platforms will be discussed. As far as possible, the emphasis will be on cross-platform options. There will be considerable focus on Web 2.0 and other Internet resources that are not platform dependent. Some software will be pre-loaded on DVD and made available for installation during and after the workshop.

The entire two-day presentation will be on a wiki that will be available to participants during the workshop and afterwards. As well, participants will be encouraged to collaborate in creating their own wiki pages, during the workshop, to highlight resources that are considered especially relevant. The wiki is one example of an online resource that can be used effectively to support a broad range of learning needs, and it is one of several online resources that will be modeled. Another option that will be explored is classroom blogging, with its tremendous potential to engage learners.

Other examples of technology that will be examined include:

- text-to-speech options
- software that supports unique vision needs
- browser add-ons that facilitate effective Internet use
- little-used powerful features of Microsoft Word
- versatile enrichment software such as Scratch

Numerous multimedia tools will be demonstrated, along with supporting graphic and audio resources. Time will be spent in guided hands-on exploration of these powerful multimedia tools that can provide learners with alternative ways of showing what they know. Participants will take a look at a representative sampling of the kinds of websites that can be used to inform flexible curricula for a diverse range of learning needs.

Digital resources make it more realistic than it ever has been to expect to reach every learner in a classroom. An abundance of highly effective technology is readily available to any educator or parent who knows where to find it and how to use it. When technology is free, even cost is removed as a barrier to learning.

Paul is passionate about what he will be presenting, and about the potential of what he will share to positively impact the lives of learners. Although individuals involved in special education will benefit, this workshop is intended for all educators who support learning at any level.

### **Workshop Schedule (Sat & Sun):**

#### **Schedule—Saturday**

- 7:50-8:20 Workshop payment, Breakfast—cafeteria 2/F
- 8:30-10:00 UDL overview  
Session 1: Explore tools that facilitate access to the curriculum for learners who struggle with barriers such as dyslexia, written output challenges, and other issues that can get in the way of learning.
- 10:00-10:20 Tea Break—5/F
- 10:20-11:50 Session 1 continued
- 11:50-12:40 Lunch—cafeteria
- 12:40-2:10 Session 2: Explore ways in which specific resources can be used to provide learners with multiple means of representation.
- 2:10 – 2:30 Tea Break—5/F
- 2:30-4:00 Session 2 continued

#### **Schedule—Sunday**

- 7:50-8:20 Breakfast—cafeteria 2/F
- 8:30-10:00 Session 3: Explore ways in which specific resources can be used to provide learners with multiple means of expression & action.
- 10:00-10:10 Tea Break—5/F
- 10:10-11:40 Session 3 continued
- 11:40-12:20 Lunch—cafeteria
- 12:20-1:50 Session 4: Explore ways in which specific resources can be used to provide learners with multiple means of engagement .
- 1:50 – 2:00 Tea Break—5/F
- 2:00-3:00 Session 4 continued

**Fee:**

US\$50 or HK \$390 which includes breakfast, lunch, tea-breaks, and any materials. Please make payments in **CASH** on the morning of Saturday, November 6.

**Registration:**

Complete the online registration form at <http://tinyurl.com/digital-tech>

**University Credit:**

Participants have the opportunity to obtain one semester graduate credit from Buffalo State, State University of New York (SUNY). Information will be e-mailed to registered participants.

**Accommodation:**

Participants are responsible for booking his/her own accommodation. There are many hotels in Hong Kong that offer very good service. Take note that our school is located in the Sha Tin, New Territories area when making your booking.

**Royal Park Hotel** is attached to a large shopping mall and on the main public transport routes for trains and buses. Cost is ~US \$100 for a room. [www.royalpark.com.hk](http://www.royalpark.com.hk)

**Regal Riverside** is closer to the school but requires a taxi, bus or walk to get to most locations. Cost is ~\$US 85 for a room. [www.regalriverside.com](http://www.regalriverside.com)

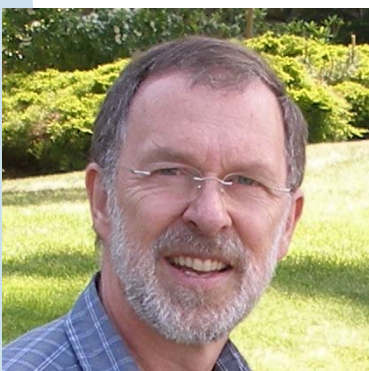
Hotel registration form with the conference rate for Royal Park Hotel will be e-mailed to registered participants.

**School Address:**

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**Contact:**

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**Workshop Presenter:****Paul Hamilton**

For the past 7 years, Paul has worked as an assistive technology consultant with SET-BC (Special Education Technology-British Columbia). He supports K-12 learners in 5 school districts on Vancouver Island. Paul has been a teacher since 1978, and has taught in elementary, middle, and secondary school classrooms in both Canada and India. Currently, Paul is also a part-time instructor in the Faculty of Education at Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo. Paul has an M.Ed from the University of Victoria (BC).