

Case Study 5 : Free High School Science Texts

Free High School Science Texts is/was a project to create open content textbooks to address the need for textbooks in South African high schools.

Discuss key aspects of the project as they relate to ICT4D, including:

- How ICTs have been used for the key activities of the project, that is writing of textbooks
- How ICTs have been used to support the project organisation
- Appropriateness of technology for audience
- Social aspects of project: HAP/champion, etc.
- Legal aspects related to production, use and distribution of open textbooks
- Similar projects elsewhere in the world (OCW, NSDL, etc.)
- Relationship with the Cape Town Declaration
- Research activities
- Future vision: Sustainability, Siyavula

Case Study 6 : Digital Doorway

Digital Doorway is a project to provide shared computer terminal access to individuals who would otherwise not have access to a computer, typically in rural areas. The premise is that access alone is sufficient to enable learning, both about computers and using the computer as a medium.

Discuss key aspects of the project as they relate to ICT4D, including:

- How ICTs have been used for the key activities of the project, that is how Digital Doorway works
- How ICTs have been used to support the project organisation
- Appropriateness of technology for audience
- Social aspects of project: HAP/champion, etc.
- Legal aspects related to software and content distribution
- Similar projects elsewhere in the world (Hole in the Wall, airport Internet terminals, etc.)
- Research activities
- Future vision: Sustainability

Questions – Case Study 5/6

1. Why makes this project particularly developmental?
2. Why will a solution from the North-West not work?
3. Is the technology at the right level of sophistication for the intended users?
4. Why was mobile technology not used instead?
5. Has the community/communities accepted the project?
6. Who owns the hardware/software/content?
7. What evidence is there that the project is a success?
8. What is the cost of the project?
9. Can this project be replicated easily in other communities / countries?
10. How can you improve on the technology used in the project?