

Technology

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PREL’s work with technology includes integrating it as a tool for teaching and learning, using it in professional development and technical assistance, and designing and developing technological solutions. PREL supports teaching and learning by designing and delivering multimedia-based curriculum through gaming technologies and establishing digital libraries. As a leader in distance education, PREL has transformed educator teaching and training. PREL works with regional counterparts to enhance infrastructure, address the digital divide, strengthen accountability, and bolster the availability of reliable data.

Based upon research and best practice, PREL believes that, when used effectively, technology can support higher order thinking by engaging students in authentic, complex tasks within collaborative learning contexts. Instead of focusing on isolated, skills-based uses of technology, we work with teachers, schools, and community libraries to promote the use of a multitude of technologies for sophisticated problem solving and information retrieval purposes.

JUMP Into Reading for Meaning (JUMP)

The JUMP program focused on the development, delivery, and evaluation of a supplemental vocabulary instructional game for the Nintendo DS Lite. The curriculum targeted low-performing 4th grade students enrolled in after-school educational programs to address the “4th grade slump,” a well-documented drop-off in standardized test scores that occurs as these students encounter progressively difficult texts and content area reading.

In its fourth year of development, the team finished two games under the name *Cosmos Chaos!*[™]. In 2009, the games’ evaluation involved 30 schools and over 600 students. Evaluation results showed a positive and statistically significant effect on the children who played the game, particularly the bilingual children of the sample.

By developing educational interventions that take advantage of gaming environments, JUMP added to the potential of using technology in the classroom.





Distance Learning

PREL has more than a decade of experience in distance education. We use technology to deliver professional development and help teachers access an expanded range of resources they can use in their classrooms to the benefit of students. For example, in 2009, PREL conducted multiple professional development webinars on a diverse array of topics, including equity, integrated service delivery, adolescent literacy, dropout prevention, and effective literacy and instruction for ELLs. Given the vast geographic distances and isolated communities within the Pacific region, PREL views distance education not only as a necessity, but also as an opportunity to build capacity cost effectively and efficiently.

Regional Education Master's Online Training in Evaluation (REMOTE)

REMOTE, which concluded in 2009, offered those in the Pacific service region the opportunity to obtain a master's degrees in education with an emphasis in evaluation. The program was conducted in collaboration with the College of Education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and the degree was conferred by them. REMOTE was developed to address a need among the states served by PREL to understand evaluation and acquire an analytical perspective about educational programs. Eight students graduated on time in spring 2009. Another three students are close to completing their degrees and have enrolled with the university to complete remaining obligations.



Library and Information Literacy Initiatives

In 2009, PREL conducted a survey of training needs for library, archives, and museum staff, which provided current data to inform strategic planning for PREL's ongoing efforts to bring relevant training opportunities to the region. Results indicated an urgent need for improved access to information, professional development, and continuing education in key areas of library and information science. PREL provides the Pacific island community with access to evidence-based information and research in both education and health through databases, such as EBSCOHost (over 11,000 journals), STAT!Ref (medical and health resources), and the National Library of Medicine (NLM) databases. Database and information outreach training is provided to librarians, allied health workers, physicians, health educators, and others.

The U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) funds a number of PREL projects. In 2009, PREL delivered training to 55 pre-professional staff from academic, public, school, and special libraries funded by the IMLS grant Pacific Library Training Institute (PLTI). Each 3-week institute covered library management topics supplemented by site visits to libraries, archives, and museums. The Leaders for Pacific Libraries (LPL) project was designed by PREL to build capacity in preservation, book repair, disaster planning and response, grant writing, and digital library development. Seventy-six participants successfully completed the workshops designed and delivered by PREL. The Pacific Digital Library (PDL), currently being

developed by a team of 16 library staff who participated in the LPL digital library development training, is an ongoing collaborative project directed by PREL. Capacity building for the PDL project emphasizes collection development and analysis, user studies, and technical capabilities. Each year, PREL convenes a professional review panel to provide recommendations to the IMLS for the annual Grants to the Pacific States and Territories and Virgin Islands competition. These awards are an important source of funding for the improvement of library services.

PREL works closely with the Pacific Islands Association of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (PIALA) to provide technical support and program expertise. PREL offers training programs and informational sessions at the annual PIALA conference and mentors the PIALA leadership team to improve advocacy and organizational planning.

PREL's support for libraries, archives, and museums is central to affecting educational change. Information services and cultural centers are key community institutions that support educational system at all levels and promote lifelong learning. Training and leadership development activities have been designed by PREL to strengthen the expertise of regional staff.

PREL Assists in American Samoa Disaster Recovery

In October 2009, PREL's Director of Library and Information Literacy Initiatives spent 2 weeks in American Samoa to assist in recovery efforts following the devastating tsunami, salvaging vital records and other documents and conducting on-site assessment of recovery issues for four school libraries. PREL has developed expertise and leadership for disaster preparedness among Pacific libraries, archives, and museums. The successful salvage efforts demonstrated the importance of advanced training and planning.