

The Case Study on Elementary School Students' Learning Experiences of Computer in Subject Homepage Constructing.

Abstract

The purpose of this research is to discuss elementary school students' learning experiences of computer in subject homepage constructing. As a qualitative research, field observation, document collection, and interviews are the ways to collect data. Through the curriculum designs and teaching on different subjects, there are 5 sixth-grade-students as the cases to do the homepage construction, called "My Hometown" as the topic.

This research is through the field observation, data collection and interviews to get the data and do the analysis. The conclusions are following: 1)subject homepage constructing curriculum can develop students' ability in computer application. 2) combines the computer skills and life experiences. 3) can elevate students' interests and confidence. 4)To construct the homepage with the subject of hometown promotes the efficacy in teaching about local culture.

According to the results, we can understand the computer application in subject teaching is loved by students who can easily learn multiple skills through the process of subject homepage making. Besides, if the contend makes connection with life experiences, it would also elevates students' learning interests. The conclusions of this research can be the references for elementary schools in following computer subject teaching, and offers an experience for students making teaching materials of local culture.

Keyword : Elementary School Student, Learning Experience, Subject Homepage

Subject : Computer Application in Young Child Education

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In Taiwan, the information and technology education of elementary school has always been put much attention,

especially the skills of computer operating and understanding. With the development of Internet, the computer and Internet are more

and more functional in teaching. As the time of thesis choosing, researcher took the importance of computer and Internet in teaching into the great consideration, and also concerned about students' learning experiences. Therefore, researcher chose the school which he serves and the 5 sixth-grade-students as the objects of this research to know elementary school students' learning experiences of computer application in homepage constructing. Moreover, the analysis and results can be the references for schools pushing information and technology curriculum. In conclusion, the purposes of this research are following:

1. To understand and discuss elementary school students' learning experiences of computer application in homepage constructing.
2. To explore the possibilities of producing teaching material of local culture for elementary school students.

2. Foundation of Theory

2.1 Perspectives of teaching and learning experiences

張靜儀(1995) makes a point that the teaching theories resulted from the real classroom interacting condition can be truly valuable. 徐大偉(1995) had done the research from the perspective of ethnomethodology. He chose a class of elementary school and spent long time in field observation and depth interviews to discuss the perspectives of teaching which teachers constructed in the real classroom environment. 孫敏芝(1998) thinks the qualitative research is suitable for researches with topics of school culture, interacting process between teachers and students, and educational assessments.

In short, it would be much in depth to know the situation of elementary school education, the teaching process and students' learning experiences from the real classroom circumstances.

2.2 To apply computer in teaching

About the issue of applying computer in teaching, the related research reports show that (Barbara Bout, Margaret Mcnay , 2002 ; M. Macaulay, E. Edmonds , 2004 ; William E. Blanton, Erin Simmons, and Mark Warner , 2001) . Well planning teaching subjects and to apply computer in teaching will be available strategies.

3. Research Design

3.1 Process of the research

The purpose of this research is to discuss elementary school students' learning experiences of computer in subject homepage constructing. As a qualitative research, field observation, document collection, and interviews are the ways to collect data. Through the curriculum designs and teaching on different subjects, there are 5 sixth-grade-students as the cases to do the homepage construction, called "My Hometown" as the topic. These five students have already acquired the computer foundational operating skill, simple word processing, and computer drawing skills.

The process of research is showed as

Figure 1

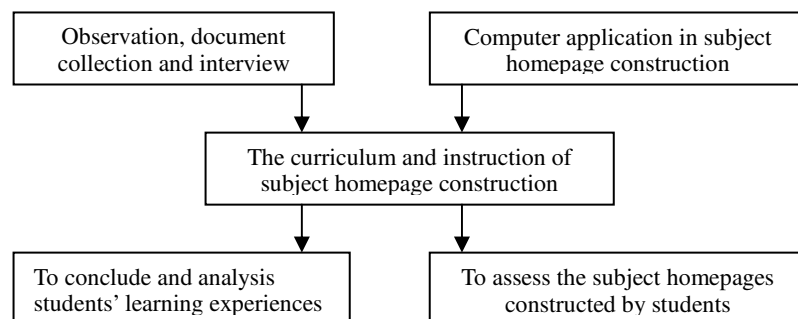


Figure 1 Process of the research

In Figure 1, students have learned how to construct subject homepages for 9 weeks,

during which researcher has reached a conclusion about students' learning experiences from the data collection and analysis to become the references of subject computer teaching.

3.2 The schedule of curriculum

The schedule of curriculum is presented in Chart 1:

Chart 1: The schedule of subject homepage constructing curriculum

week	Topics / Stages
1	Introduction of website frames and component; the introduction of website constructing software
2	Preparation of tools, work distribution and arrangement
3	Pictures and literature collecting.
四	Frame the homepages, and design the front page.
五	Process discussion, homepage editing
六	Branches of pages editing
七	Process discussion, homepage modification, and compensative pictures taking
八	Branches of pages accomplished, topic making, and process adjusting
九	Page review, connection checking, and accomplish the work

4. Results

After 9 weeks of subject homepage learning, researcher analysed the data obtained through field observation, document collection and interview of students and made conclusions about students' learning experiences. A, B, C, D, E represents the 5 students each. For example, A-4-1 means that the interview of Student A is under section 4-1. The results are following:

4.1 To develop students' multiple skills in computer application

It needs multiple skills to construct subject homepages, including basic computer operating skills, foundational word processing and drawing abilities. Students learn compound computer applied skills through computer subject teaching. What students say are as following:

The teacher took us to many places to take photos. After that, she taught us modify photos by photoImpact and make homepage.

(A-4-1)

I didn't know how to make homepage at first, but now I knew it. The teacher's effort has greatly contributed to our success.

(B-4-1)

I learned many skills of making homepage and modify photos. (C-4-1)

The teacher taught us put the characters into hyperlink; the function of hyperlink was to link the characters to another homepage or photo. (D-4-1)

After the instruction, I finally knew that homepage consisted of photos and characters, and which was linked through the so-called "hyperlink". (E-4-1)

Based on what students sharing about how they learned, we can know that they learn a lot of skills about computer software application, and it also enhances their abilities in computer operating. Therefore, students are able to learn compound computer skills through subject homepage constructing.

4.2 To combine computer skills and life experiences

The topic of this subject homepage making is "My Hometown", which students are not strange to; some are even quite

familiar with. So, students are very happy when making homepage of this topic. These are what they say:

“Nazi Creek is the part I am in charge where the water is so clean. You can see the verdure of mountain and clear water there, very beautiful! Welcome you to come and visit it. I am trying hard to make the homepage of the creek, and you can not agree more with what I say after you see my homepages. (A-4-2)

“Teacher took us to the Shi-ji Valley to collect pictures. We were so happy. (C-4-2)

“And the aboriginal Pingpu Tribe culture in our Siaolin Village is the best.” (D-4-2)

“This time we are doing things about Pinpu Tribe and Siaolin Village, which we are really good at. (E-4-2)

According to what student talk about their learning experiences, it shows that the connection between the subject and student's life experiences promotes learning interests.

4.3 To elevate students' interests and confidence

During the research, students all deeply involve, and make subject homepage automatically when they are free. Students are all highly interested in this subject curriculum. Moreover, students also feel cheerful about the achievement they made, and are much more confident. It shows following:

“When seeing the results, I feel quite worthy to have this experience.” (A-4-3)

“Each of us feels very confident. I want to thank teacher for teaching us homepage making.” (B-4-3)

“I am glad to making subject homepage, and it is going to the end. Truly speaking, I would like to do it again!” (D-4-3)

“I am joyful that teacher teaches me to make homepage. How lucky I am! I also learn a lot of knowledge of homepage

making from it ” (E-4-3)

According to what students said, students were very interested in making subject homepages, and put many efforts into the process. So, a well-planned subject can help students feel more interested and confident in learning.

4.4 To construct the homepage with the subject of hometown promotes the efficacy in teaching about local culture

To let students construct the subject homepage of their hometown and experience the ecology and culture has been greatly emphasized in this research. After participating the project, students all think that they have profoundly experiences about the hometown, and identify themselves with their hometown. These are what they said:

“By this opportunity, I went to many places again where I have been there long time ago.” (C-4-4)

“It was so much fun this week. I have already been expecting the next week. Teacher told us we would go to Jiashen for taking pictures. We are happy to hear that.” (D-4-4)

“I will snap all beautiful sceneries in Jiashen and introduce the beauty there to everybody. Although I don't know much about homepage making, but I ensure you I will learn hard!” (E-4-4)

Through the analysis from students' experiences and the homepages, it tells that students like to design teaching materials of local culture through the subject curriculum.

5. Conclusion

This research is through the field observation, data collection and interviews to get the data and do the analysis. The conclusions are following:

- 1) This subject homepage constructing curriculum can develop students' ability in computer application.

- 2) It combines the computer skills and life experiences.
- 3) It can elevate students' interests and confidence.
- 4) To construct the homepage with the subject of hometown promotes the efficacy in teaching about local culture.

According to the results, we can understand the computer application in subject teaching is loved by students who can easily learn multiple skills through the process of subject homepage making. Besides, if the content makes connection with life experiences, it would also elevate students' learning interests. The conclusions of this research can be the references for elementary schools in following computer subject teaching, and offers an experience for students making teaching materials of local culture.

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附錄一、「我的家鄉」主題網站

<http://163.16.193.150/web/default.htm>

