

Using Digital Resources in Educational Settings



A Users Perspective

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Benefits of On-Line resources

- Support the development of subject specific knowledge and skills
- Support the development of students' learning



Subject Knowledge

- Provide access to alternative sources of documentary evidence
- Support the development of range of research and enquiry skills



Digital Resources as Learning Tools

- Interactivity and flexibility provide possibilities for learners to explore the material in a way determined by their own interests, curiosity and experience
- Enhances metacognitive ability and promotes the development of metacognitive strategies



Governments ICT strategy for Schools

- Promotion of use of multi-media technology in schools
- Provision of Hardware and Software resources
- Development of networked environments
- Commitment to Teachers' Professional Development
- Initial Teacher Education



Pedagogical Issues

- Evidence of Limited use of ICT in schools
- Underdeveloped Pedagogical Strategies
- Attitudes to learning; focus on body of knowledge to be learnt rather than process of learning
- Data Harvesting rather than data analysis
- Issue of Access; who has access to the resources, how and how much does it cost?



Contextual Issues

- Management of change in educational settings
- Copyright issues for schools and departments with limited budgets
- Assumption that on-line resources are freeware



Challenges to the Authors of Digital Resources

- Access to the resource has to be simple, intuitive and affordable
- The needs of different categories of user have to be taken into account.



Challenge to Educators

- Development of both teachers and students to exploit the potential of on-line resources
- Need to move away from passive reception of facts to active construction of understanding through searching, selecting and problem solving