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Article Review

MOYO, M., & ABDULLAH, H. (2013). ENHANCING AND ENRICHING STUDENTS' READING EXPERIENCE BY USING SOCIAL MEDIA TECHNOLOGIES. *Mousaion*, 31(2), 135-153.

Article Review:

I found this article based on a search for reading, learning and technology. I was interested in the correlation between new age technology and learner reading level. We have so much technology at our finger tips and this article discusses how these “social technologies” give an opportunity to enhance reading. It discusses reading trends across the world, the social interaction learning framework, the technology that can be used to benefit learners and how, as well as concerns in regards to using these technologies in a classroom setting.

There is much debate, even speculation, regarding learning and technology. This article shows both sides (benefits and concerns) of the use of media in a learning setting to enhance reading skills. The article states, “A decline in learners' reading ability has been widely reported in different countries. Social media technologies present an opportunity to enhance and enrich learners' reading by capitalizing on those activities they enjoy engaging in.” We see it in our everyday lives; kids all around use using tablets and cell phones to access all facets of media. It is our responsibility as educators to model how to use media in a way that is productive in learning. The article says, “According to Doiron and Asselin (2011), readers (learners included) are more likely to be motivated to continue reading if they feel they have a choice as regards their reading material, rather than being confined to prescribed school-based textbooks only. The social medias have the potential to develop and enhance learners' reading habits because they offer a variety of alternative

reading materials from which learners may choose." And I couldn't agree more. Offering students a world of reading materials will allow students to find something that interests them, thus creating a connection for the reader and the likelihood that students will continue to read and strengthen their abilities as a reader.

While there are great benefits to the use of social media technologies we must also be cognizant of the concerns. "According to Igbokwe et al (2012), unsupervised browsing of the Internet, playing with trendy handsets, and compulsive texting may be disruptive and may make the reading of books (or any other written material) seem like an archaic activity. In many cases, learners tend to keep abreast of technology, making it difficult for less savvy adults to oversee the educational use of such social media." I think many of us can agree that this generation of learners is much more tech savvy than we are, which is why it's so important that we do our due diligence in staying up to date on the latest trends in technology. We also must teach students to use these amazing resources in a responsible and mature way and the dangers that can arise if used improperly.

This article was a great read. I really found that they addressed both sides of the "debate" and gave ways to ensure we steer away from the concerns. They tied in the social interaction framework which to me gave them validity in the learning aspects of the debate. I will definitely be saving this article as something to reflect back on.