Digital Diversity: Youth, Equity, and Information Technology
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$34.95 Paper • 204 pp. • 978-1-55458-185-6 • August 2010

Digital Diversity: Youth, Equity, and Information Technology is about youth, schools, and the use of technology. Youth are instrumental in finding novel ways to access and use technology. They are directly affected by changes such as the proliferation of computers in schools and elsewhere and by the increasingly heavy use of the Internet for both information-sharing and for communication.

The contributors to this volume investigate how the resources provided by information and communication technology (ICT) are made available to different groups of young people (as defined by gender, race, rural location, Aboriginal status, street youth status) and how they do (or do not) develop competence with this technology. How does access vary for these different groups of youth? Which young people develop facility with ICT? What impact has this technology had on their learning and their lives? These are among the issues examined. Youth from a wide variety of settings are included in the study, including Inuit youth in the High Arctic.

Rather than mandate how youth should better use technology (as much of the existing literature does), the contributors focus on how youth and educators are actually using technology. By paying attention to the routine use and understandings of ICTs by youth and those teaching youth, the book highlights the current gaps in policy and practice. It challenges assumptions around the often taken-for-granted links between technology, pedagogy, and educational outcomes for youth in order to highlight a range of important equity issues.

E. Dianne Looker, a Canada Research Chair in Equity and Technology, has undertaken several longitudinal surveys focusing on youth in a changing society and has provided expert advice to numerous policy groups and government departments. Her recent work looks at the ways in which the shift to more of an information society has affected equity for subgroups of youth in Canada and abroad.

Ted D. Naylor is currently studying men’s health, bio-politics, and health policy in the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program at Dalhousie University in Halifax. He is also a research manager and associate for the Health, Illness, Men and Masculinities Project (HIMM), Dalhousie University. Prior to this role, Naylor was the project coordinator for the Equity and Technology Project, led by Dianne Looker at Mount Saint Vincent University.