

Characterisation of teachers use of computers and Internet inside and outside the classroom The need to focus on the quality

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Abstract

Teachers' use of ICT has mainly focused on their use in classroom context and few studies have focused on their use elsewhere. Attempting to fill this gap, this paper presents a case study of 12 secondary teachers characterising their use of ICT in and out-of-the-classroom. Results show that teachers use these tools inside the classroom for presentations and support some instructional strategies and outside the classroom for lesson preparation, administration and communication, and design of students' assignments with ICT. However, the analysis of the specific characteristics of these activities shows that beyond these apparently good purposes of ICT use, the quality of the characteristics of the activities is heterogeneous, which can have implications in the effectiveness of the use of ICT in teaching and learning. Based on this, we suggest that in order to take full advantage of the teaching and learning opportunities associated to use of digital tools in education, there is a need to develop teachers' and students' digital skills, specifically those associated to searching and selecting information available in the Internet, and developing and presenting information products..

Keywords

Teachers use of ICT, Teaching and learning with ICT, Lesson preparation and ICT, Teachers' information and communication digital skills, Teachers use of Internet.