

Instructional Media: Components, Classification and Benefits

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ABSTRACT

The use of media in instruction is very crucial hence, this paper discussed, instructional media, its components, classification and benefits under which it tried to define the term instructional media as materials and resources that support learning and covering whatever the teacher uses to enhance the teaching learning process. It discussed the components of instructional media as the message, medium, method and material. It mentioned some of the characteristics of instructional media, stating that they must be accurate, relevant to the lesson objectives and learner's level of understanding, engaging and interactive making learners active and not passive learners. Instructional media was then classified under: The Sense they appeal to, types and format, the basis of concrete abstract continuum, beginning with direct experience to symbolic representation, a hierarchy of great and greater abstraction beginning with what was referred to as the total situation, ending with words on the top of the hierarchy. The benefits included: Enhancing Engagement and Motivation, Visual and Auditory Stimulation, Real-World Relevance, Improving Learning Outcomes, Knowledge Retention, Facilitating Personalized Learning and Accessibility. It was recommended amongst others that Teacher use of instructional Media in teaching and learning processes should be encourage at all levels and that the Government should help teachers improve their knowledge on the use of instructional media by organizing Seminar for them. Keywords: Instructional Media, Classification, Components, Characteristics, Benefits.

Introduction

The term Instructional Media describes media materials and tools that aids or supports learning, which could be technologies that are used to support and enhance the learning process. The word media comes from the Latin “medius” which means “middle”. Wordpress, (2015), states that, all forms of media, carry or convey something

to the recipient of messages and ideas and that instructional media refer to “any person, materials, equipment or events that establish the condition that enable the students acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes. Meaning that, teachers, books, computers, image and environment can all be instructional media.

According to Nashiroh, (2019) instructional media cover whatever the teacher uses to involve all the five senses of sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste while presenting their lessons. In the same vein, Igben et al (2023), says instructional media are resources that helps the teacher to teach more effectively and enable the students to learn faster. Instructional media are information carriers designed specifically to achieve learning objectives in a teaching-learning process. They are very important in the teaching of any subject. They help to vividly illustrate meanings of things as they are usually associated with materials used by the teachers to improve the quality of their teaching.

Ansari, (2020) affirms that, instructional media are special materials that convey information and can be used to illustrate concepts and also used to engage learners during a teaching and learning process. They help make complex concepts more accessible, engaging students, and providing diverse learning experiences, ultimately improving knowledge acquisition and retention. Thus, they are tools and methods used by teachers to effectively convey information and facilitate learning and they cover everything from traditional resources like textbooks and chalkboards and then to modern technologies like computers and online platforms.

Components of Instructional media

Instructional media components encompass various tools and methods used to facilitate learning, which includes visual, audio, audiovisual, tactile, and virtual media, and all aim at enhancing student engagement and understanding. The components of instructional media brock down into:

Message – this is the instructional content or the information to be conveyed to learners.

Medium – presents the channel through which the message is conveyed (the platform used to pass the message).

Method – this is the instructional approach or strategy used to convey or present the message.

Materials – this could be physical or digital materials or resources used to convey or support the teaching and learning process. Every material used for instruction must necessarily carry specific message that will aid both the teacher and the learners achieve lesson objectives, same goes for the instructional strategy chosen by the teacher for the lesson.

Characteristics of Instructional Media

Some characteristics of instructional media include:

Accuracy: Any media used for instruction should carry and convey accurate and reliable information.

Relevance: Instructional media should be relevant to the age and educational level of the learners it is used for, and relevant to the objectives of the lesson.

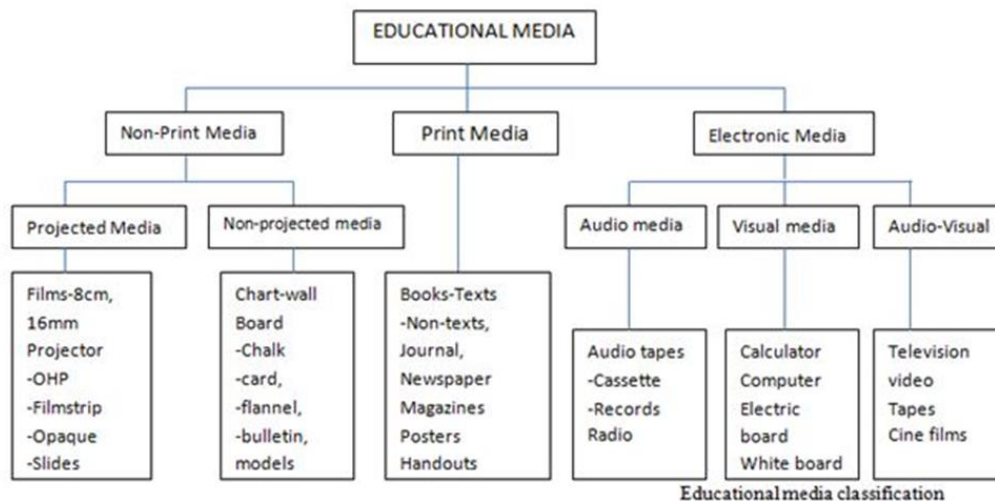
Engagement: it should be such that will capture the learners’ attention, keep them interested and motivated throughout the lesson.

Interactivity: Instructional media should encourage learners' participation and engagement with the learning contents. Use of instructional media aims at making learning more engaging and interactive, fostering student participation and motivation and so should be selected in consideration of learners age, intellectual ability, lesson content and strategy.

Makinigetuno, (2017) agreed that learning proceeds from seeing, hearing and doing and that. when learners learning involves the use of instructional media, then they are likely to become active participants in the quest to gain more knowledge. These three-point process ensures that learners are active and not passive.

Classification of Instructional Media

Fig. 1: Educational Media and Types



Source: Relevance of educational media. IOSR Journal. <https://www.iosrjournals.org>

- 1) **By Sensory Appeal:** According to the. Open University, (2015) Media may be classified according to the senses they appeal to, broadly media can be classified as either Audio or visual.

Audio

Visual

Audio – Visual

- 2) **Instructional media can be classified under types / format** which will be:

Text media: which includes printed and displayed text.

Audio media refers to: human voice and sounds.

Visual media: use of sight, (seeing with the eye) visual learning.

Motion media: is the combination of motion, sound, and color to portray concepts involving movement.

People media: uses people themselves or those in media as the medium.

Manipulative media: uses physical objects to engage hands-on learning. (bdu.ac.in 2023)

- 3) Studocu, (2023), classified instructional media thus:

Audio-Visual refers to instructional materials which provide learners with audio and visual experiences. They appeal to both hearing and seeing senses at the same time, for example television, video tapes, and closed-circuit television (CCTV).

Projected media. Projected media belong to a group of instructional resources which can only be accessed by means of projecting their content on the screen or wall using a projector machine specially designed for the purpose (Blogger.com 2017). Projected media are usually a combination of software and hardware. These require light source for projection, for example, film projector slides, and so on.

Non-projected media are aids that do not need any projection on screen and light source. They include 3 dimensional objects, 2 dimensional objects, prints, charts, models and so on

Hardware are the machines, equipment, tools or gadgets upon which the software/information will be transmitted. They can be used many times and are repairable in case of damage.

Software. The consumable or disposable materials which carry the information. They wear and tear as they are used. They are relatively cheaper than the hardware. Hardware and software work together for effective and efficient functioning. (Purwanto & Tawar, 2024)

Multimedia. Multimedia combines five basic types of media into the learning environment namely: text, video sound, graphics and animation, thus providing a powerful tool for instruction, students learning and education in general. Multimedia includes a combination of text, audio, still images, animation, video, or interactivity content forms as mentioned by (British Transatlantic Polytechnic 2023) and is usually recorded and played, displayed, or accessed by information content processing devices, such as computerized and electronic devices, but can also be part of a live performance. Multimedia devices are electronic media devices used to store and experience multimedia content and is distinguished from mixed media. (British Transatlantic Polytechnic 2023).

4. As Adegibia & Fakomogbon (2024) opined that instructional media may also be classified on the basis of concrete abstract continuum, beginning with direct experience to symbolic representation, that is,

Abstract symbols = words numbers formula

5. Hoban, et al (1944) in their book on the use of audio - visual materials indicated that the value of audio – visual materials is a function of their degree of realism. In developing this concept, they arranged various teaching resources in a hierarchy of great and greater abstraction beginning with what they referred to as the total situation, ending with words on the top of the hierarchy:
 - Words
 - Diagram
 - Maps
 - Flat pictures
 - Slides
 - Films
 - Models
 - Objects
 - Total situation

Good (2024), mentioned that, the development of instruction should follow the sequence provided by the hierarchy leaving of experience. This should apply to all learners, from children to adults. When a learning task is presented to adults who have no previous relevant experience on which to draw, learning can be facilitated to them by a teacher. Stes, et al (2013) agreed that the business of the teacher is to organize the experience of the learner in a way that helps them change their performance in a meaningful way this they can do by including the use of instructional media materials in planning their lessons.

Benefits of the Use of Instructional Media Materials in Instruction

Instructional Media has several benefits in the teaching and learning process, Ibrahim, & Danladi, (2024), confirms that instructional media:

- Helps from introduction of a lesson to evaluation of the lesson i.e. from start to end in a teaching learning process.
- It provides concrete experiences which serves as a basis of thinking, reasoning and problem solving.
- They are used to encourage more learner participation.
- They provide more concrete experiences that serve as basis for thinking, reasoning and problem solving.
- They help to present a large amount of information (facts, ideas, data etc.) within a short time.
- They increase both the amount learning and the retention of learning.
- They help in illustrating ideas, facts, principles and or points.
- They help in motivating learners.
- They provide greater acquisition and longer retention of factual knowledge.
- They offer opportunities for learners to develop communication skills
- They stimulate self-activity on the part of the learner

Beside these benefits mentioned above, Tanggoro (2015) agreed that, instructional media are also beneficial in the following ways:

- a) **Enhancing Engagement and Motivation:** Media, especially interactive and multimedia resources, makes learning more engaging and interactive, they foster student participation and increases their motivation in their learning.
- b) **Visual and Auditory Stimulation:** Using visuals, e.g. (videos, images, and presentations) and audio like (podcasts and audiobooks) can cater to different learning styles and keep students engaged.
- c) **Real-World Relevance:** Media illustrates how learned concepts apply to real-world situations, making learning more relevant and meaningful.
- d) **Improving Learning Outcomes:** Media helps to clarify complex lesson concepts and make them easier to understand, leading to better comprehension.
- e) **Knowledge Retention:** By using learning resources that appeals to multiple senses and engaging students actively, media can help improve knowledge retention.
- f) **Skill Development:** Media can be used to practice and develop specific skills, such as listening, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

- g) Facilitating Personalized Learning: Media can be used to create personalized learning experiences, catering to diverse student needs and learning styles, online platforms and digital resources allow for flexible learning, enabling students to learn at their own pace and on their own schedule.
- h) Accessibility: Media help to make learning more accessible to students with disabilities or those who learn differently.

Balancing and Improving concrete and abstract learning experiences is one of the key reasons for using instructional media in instructional processes. However most instructional media resources use a combination of presentation form, these vary in their degree of relation, for instance, films, and film strips. However, sometimes line drawings may be more effective than realistic images, for example, using line drawings to show interval structures than the real thing. A good instructional media helps the teacher overcome difficulties of verbal communication, especially if the media used should appeal to as many senses as possible. This is because the more senses instructional media appeals to the greater the impact of its contribution to effectiveness students learning.

Conclusion

Use of media in instruction serve to open more channels of communication and information, it also creates a variety of sensory impressions. When using media during teaching and learning process, it helps teacher not to rely on talking alone while students passively listen for the transmission of knowledge because media promote the process of perception and retention, consequently, it improves the efficiency of learning. One major enemy the teacher constantly fights among students is boredom. It is difficult for teachers to maintain attention for periods longer than 10 to 15 minutes without engaging students actively in their learning, learner participation is crucial in any learning situation and only instructional media can help a teacher to keep the learners attentive for as long as they learn. Media truly serves to brighten up a lesson's presentation and alleviates student's boredom. Well thought out instructional media can act as effective substitutes to the real experience, for instance, the experience of handling an actual object, participating in a process or observing a factory production in operation involves the use of all senses, this can provide the instructional media to learning.

The use of instructional media makes learning to be more of learner centered because learners are able to interact and touch the objects freely increasing the possibility of learned concepts to be retained longer and even stored in long term memory. This is true, learning proceeds from seeing, hearing and doing. The classification of the instruction media is based on the methods that deliver content to the learners in the most effective way to those that are limited. Teaching aids if well prepared assist the teacher to deliver the contents of the lesson more precisely. By using of teaching aids, teaching and learning becomes easier and interesting.

Recommendations

This paper recommends the following as:

- Teacher use of instructional Media in teaching and learning processes should be encouraged at all levels.
- The Government should help teachers improve their knowledge on the use of instructional media by organizing Seminar for them.
- Stakeholders in the Educational System, School Management people from the Private sectors should help provide Internet Network for schools during learning hours.

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