**21st Century Teacher**

**Developments in technology and communications require new skills for the 21st Century teachers.**

1. **Modeling digital citizenship.**

To model it, we have to agree on [**what it means**](http://www.teachthought.com/technology/the-definition-of-digital-citzenship/). We’ll talk more about this one soon, but for now, [these resources](http://www.commonsensemedia.org/advice-for-parents/digital-citizenship) should help.

1. **Being able to choose an appropriate communication platform**

What is important here is who you need to communicate with and which tools are the most effective for different needs. E-mail, social media message, Skype session, What’s up or a Google+ Hangouts are just some examples. You may want to employ different tools for different purposes

1. [**Sharing**](http://www.teachthought.com/technology/12-best-ways-to-share-files/) **large files**

There are many platforms which allow you to share large files. For example,  [Evernote](http://evernote.com/%22%20%5Co%20%22Evernote.com%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) or [dropbox](https://www.dropbox.com/), however, the ones I’ll share here are the ones that are free for teachers: Google Drive; Padlet, Blendspace or Livebinders are just some examples. The teacher in 21st Century, technology era should know how to share big files efficiently.

1. **Capturing a text, image or an extract from a video and saving it**

Hit the *Print Screen* button near your number pad on a keyboard on Windows helps get screenshots but usually teachers need a specific part of a text or video to use it for their lessons or online presentations. **Jing** becomes very helpful for this purpose. Especially for prezi users jing is essential as you cannot cut and paste an image. You need to insert a picture or extract.

1. **Organizing the web-tools and online sources that are used for different purposes**

With new tools emerging everyday, it comes essential to know how to organize your lessons, research or tools. You may easily lose the materials you prepared if you don’t have a systematic approach for this purpose. It may be useful to have the same username and password for the websites. Also organizing them regularly using a handy approach will be useful to keep track of your folders.

1. **Knowing the differences and benefits of a variety of file types.**

There may be different uses of different files like a [PDF vs a .doc file](http://www.slideshare.net/jenniferth/five-benefits-of-converting-documents-into-pdf-format); a .***wav file vs .mp3*** or a [.jpg vs a png](http://www.labnol.org/software/tutorials/jpeg-vs-png-image-quality-or-bandwidth/5385/)?

1. **Helping learners learn these tools and share files for collaborative learning.**

Learners need help improving the skills that the 21st C. teacher should develop. It’ll be more time consuming to teach these skills at the beginning of the course, but in the long run, they’ll be able to develop digital skills which fosters their autonomy and independent study skills. You can see 2 examples here. One [learner padlet](http://padlet.com/menes/6nvqlbqb82m0) that is used to keep track of extra materials and tasks that the learner uses outside class time. The second one is a class blog, [SecL blogger](http://pblsectionl.blogspot.com.tr/) that is used to keep track of team blogs students used as part of their PBL class. Learners/Trainees will benefit from gaining these skills to be able to organize their studies or work in their future career.

1. **Finding out more about subscription details of YouTube channels, podcasts, pearltrees and pinterest boards, and other dynamic sources of digital media.**

These are useful subscriptions for personal and professional development. It may be useful to spend some time on these sites to explore how to benefit from them.

1. **Creating and maintaining digital portfolios or blogs.**

It may be useful to follow the blogs that inform teachers about the conferences, uses and materials to keep up with the improvements in technology.

1. **Connecting with communities using**[**project-based learning.**](http://www.teachthought.com/learning/project-based-learning/11-tools-for-better-project-based-learning/)

This can be one of the most powerful things you do, as it moves the learning from sterile classrooms to authentic audiences.

1. **Highlighting the limits of technology.**

If we don’t understand both the micro and macro impact of technology–the good and the bad–we’re doomed as a species to be completely overran by it. Sounds dramatic, but it just might be true.

1. **Using Web-2 tools effectively**

Not all web-2 tools are useful or effective. It is worth reading reviews on the tools you’re interested in. Try one with your learners and get feedback on their effectiveness.

1. **Connecting with other educators both in person and online.**

Sharing and collaboration are two concepts that are in the core of ELP profession. Learning from each other and growing together are the values of a shared culture. There is always a lot to learn from each other and whether there is a training or professional development unit in an institution, teachers can create opportunities to meet regularly and to inform each other about the materials or tools they find useful for professional development. In the use of technology, teachers or learners may have more to share than many trainers who seem to have the responsibility for institutional development. Creating opportunities in the form of mini conferences or voluntary sessions is usually very influential in creating interest among teachers.

**Further Reference**

<http://edtechreview.in/news/681-technology-in-education>

<http://www.teachthought.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/digital-citizenship.jpg>

<http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2016/04/snapchat-explained-by-students-to.html#.VyyNBPl97IU>

<http://www.edudemic.com/best-web-tools/>