

## WHAT'S **new**

NEC has added two projectors to its product line that feature integrated wired and wireless LAN compatibility.



The **LT280** and **LT380** LCD projectors include high light output, quick set-up, wall color correction, and keystone correction. Remote diagnostics allow the user to monitor, perform, and make

adjustments to the projectors over the network. The projectors send an e-mail alert when the lamp is ready to be replaced. The LT280 produces 2500 ANSI lumens, and the LT380 produces 3000 ANSI lumens. Both projectors have an integrated RJ45 connection and XGA 1024 X 768 native resolution. The LT280 costs \$2,495 and the LT380 costs \$2,995.

**MORE INFO:** NEC Solutions America, 1.800.NEC.INFO, <http://www.necvisualsystems.com>

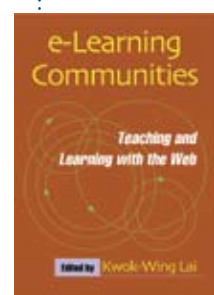
The **TetraData DASH** is a data portal that reports a school system's performance using single screen views.



The portal allows all stakeholders to monitor factors that affect a school's performance, providing detail on how the school is doing, what the environment is like, how qualified the teachers are, and how the students are progressing. The performance indicators

are defined by the (U.S.) National Center for Education Statistics and use color-coded icons. Access is role-based for security control. Contact the company for license pricing based on enrollment.

**MORE INFO:** TetraData, 1.864.458.8243, <http://www.tetradata.com>



**e-Learning Communities: Teaching and Learning with the Web**, explores the dynamics of information and communication technology in schools and classrooms. Edited by Kwok-Wing Lai, the book addresses myths surrounding the use of ICT in teaching and learning, and its 12 chapters are organized by topic and challenge. The book has an international focus,

drawing on information and research data from the U.S., Europe, and New Zealand, and includes suggestions as to how ICT might be used to support online learning communities for beginning teachers. The book costs \$39.95.

**MORE INFO:** International Specialized Book Services, 1.503.287.3093, <http://www.isbscatalog.com>

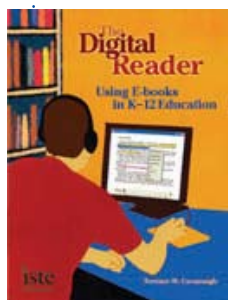
The **Virtually Indestructible Keyboard** is a full-size, silicon-based flexible keyboard that can be rolled up



into a bundle. According to the company, the keyboard is durable; allows for soft, comfortable typing; resists liquids, including coffee and water; and can be cleaned easily. It uses a PS/2 connection on any computer and costs \$29.95.

**MORE INFO:** MilesTek Corporation, 1.800.524.7444, <http://www.milestek.com>

ISTE has published **The Digital Reader: Using E-books in K-12 Education** to explore e-books as



learning tools across grade levels. The book includes descriptions and illustrations of e-book platforms and programs, as well as ideas for using e-books for reading instruction, personal productivity, and in the curriculum. Author Terence W. Cavanaugh, PhD, provides interactive lesson ideas, teaching tips, and online resources, such as free digital library resources on the Web. The book costs

\$34.15 for ISTE members and \$37.95 for nonmembers.

**MORE INFO:** ISTE, 1.800.336.5191, <http://www.iste.org/store>

### Spotlighted Resources

In addition to the resources listed in *Black History Month: A Guide to Web Resources* on page 32, we hope you'll find that these products will enrich your teaching about black history.

Discovery Education, the Faith & Politics Institute, and Freddie Mac have sent multimedia curriculum kits on Civil Rights to all 15,000 U.S. middle and junior high schools. The kit, ***Freedom on the Move, Continuing the March toward a More Perfect Union***, includes a teacher's guide, a student magazine, a classroom poster, and a DVD. The teacher's guide has four cross-curricular lessons that focus on the



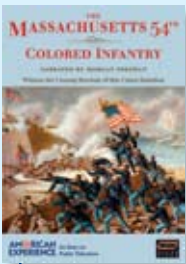
past, present, and future of civil rights, assessments, and a list of Web sites and resources. The DVD includes two films: *Civil Rights: The Long Road to Equality* and *Join Us on the Journey: An Introduction to the Congressional Civil Rights Pilgrimage*.

**MORE INFO:** Discovery School,  
<http://www.discoveryschool.com/freedom>

The U.S. Government Online Bookstore has released ***Patriots of Color: 'A Peculiar Beauty and Merit', African Americans and Native Americans at Battle Road & Bunker Hill***.

Written by George Quintal, Jr., the book describes the significant role of blacks and Native Americans at the beginning of the American Revolution. The book costs \$22.

**MORE INFO:** U.S. Government Online Bookstore,  
1.202.512.2104, <http://bookstore.gpo.gov>



A WGBH Boston video, ***The Massachusetts 54th Colored Infantry***, portrays the experience of the African American Civil War soldier. The 54th Infantry was composed of 1,000 northern black men and was raised just weeks after Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. They fought for two years and were victorious in their battle to take Charleston.

The video, narrated by Morgan Freeman, follows the movements of the 54th, highlighting particular members such as Lewis and Charles Douglass, Luis Emilio, and James Gooding. The video is available in either DVD or VHS format, runs for approximately one hour, and costs \$19.95.

**MORE INFO:** WGBH Boston, 1.800.949.8670,  
<http://www.shop.wgbh.org>

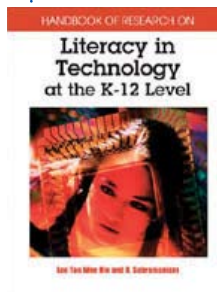


***Ten Thumbs Typing Tutor*** uses graphics and a structured tutorial style to teach touch typing in either Spanish or English. The software supports the

Spanish language and keyboard layout, and has a built-in word generator capable of producing more than 800 nonillion (10<sup>30</sup>) Spanish phrases. Standard features include games to improve

typing skills, support for a variety of keyboard types, posture advice, hints and tips, and a progress report to assess typing speed and accuracy. Ten Thumbs Typing Tutor works on both Macintosh and Windows, and a CD costs €32.95 (approximately \$39 U.S.) plus postage, a download costs €24.75 (approximately \$30 U.S.). A trial version is available online.

**MORE INFO:** Runtime Revolution Ltd., 44.0870.747.1165,  
<http://www.tenthumbstypingtutor.com>



Written by Professors Lorna Uden and Chris Beaumont, ***Technology and Problem-Based Learning*** is a tool to help implement PBL and understand the different phases of how PBL is conducted. According to the authors, the book prepares staff to consider the implications of moving to PBL and addresses the practical details of how to implement it into the curriculum.

The book covers major issues including rationale for PBL, how to write effective problems, preparing students and tutors to use PBL, being an effective facilitator, assessing students, dealing with problems, and using IT. The book costs \$84.95.

**MORE INFO:** Idea Group, 1.717.533.8845,  
<http://www.idea-group.com/reference>

The Educational Software Preview Guide (ESPG) Consortium has released the ***2005 On-Line Educational Software Preview Guide***. The guide contains more than 800 reviews and objective recommendations for exemplary technology for integration into PK–12 classrooms. The Guide features an introduction to the technology evaluation process, an example of a technology evaluation tool, a publisher hotlink for every title, and contact information for each Consortium member. The search feature allows for searching by title, publisher, subject, grade level, and mode.

**MORE INFO:** ESPG Consortium, 1.617.349.8834,  
<http://espg.info>

Gateway has developed the **E-9220T BTX server**, which, according to the company, is a low-cost, entry level server platform that can expand in functionality as needed. As an application server, the machine allows for file and print sharing, and spreads data over three drives, leaving the fourth as an optional drive that can be used as a hot spare. Features include a BTX chassis, support for various processors, support for up to four SATA hard drives, five expansion slots, multi-optical drive support, and single fixed 400W power supply. Prices start at \$599.



**MORE INFO:** Gateway Inc., 1.800.GATEWAY, <http://www.gateway.com>

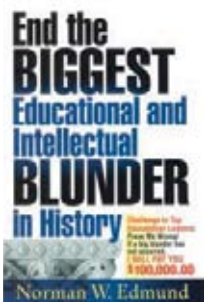
Texthelp Systems has created a Mac version of the Read&Write literacy support software. **Read&Write Gold for Mac** floats on top of any mainstream Macintosh application that meets accessibility criteria, including word processors, spreadsheets, databases,



Internet, and e-mail. According to the company, the software can scan any paper-based document or saved image into HTML, RTF, or PDF files to be read aloud, and it can analyze and correct spelling. 1,400 homophones are color-coded, a word prediction tool anticipates a user's writing, and a 180,000-word dictionary suggests synonyms to expand the user's vocabulary. A single license costs \$645, and site licenses start at \$4,495.

**MORE INFO:** Texthelp Systems, 1.888.248.0652, <http://www.texthelp.com>

Norman W. Edmund challenges educational leaders in **End the Biggest Educational and Intellectual Blunder in History**.



Edmund focuses on the "scientific method" of research and knowledge acquisition, and explains why the method has been intentionally dropped from the educational system and dismissed by industry leaders. The author claims that not using the scientific method is a major reason why the U.S. educational system has ongoing problems and why "new" learning devices and teaching

methods often fail. Edmund offers NCLB challenges, historical analysis, and plans for change. The book costs \$27.50.

**MORE INFO:** The Blunder, <http://www.theblunder.com>

RM Educational Software Inc. has announced the **Easiteach Scholarship Award (ESA)**. The ESA award recognizes teaching excellence in the use of RM



Easiteach interactive whiteboard software. The scholarship is open to North American K-12 educators who demonstrate exemplary practices in the use of whole class technology using Easiteach by submitting an interactive lesson,

teaching notes, and a brief description of how the lesson is used within the school's regular curriculum. The scholarship winner will receive an all-expenses paid week in London, England, that will include attendance to the British Education and Teaching with Technology conference, a visit to the RM headquarters in Oxford, visits to schools and districts, and a showcase of their work while in the United Kingdom. Applications will be accepted through May 31, 2006, and the winner will be announced at NECC 2006 in San Diego, California.

**MORE INFO:** RM Educational Software Inc., 1.508.420.8305, <http://www.rmeducation.com>

Scantron's **Clarity 120** is a hybrid data collection scanner that captures pen- or pencil-marked data and document



images in a single pass. The scanner can process 7,200 images per hour and has an enhanced image straightener as well as noise reduction and timing track regeneration features. According to

the company, Clarity fixes misfed forms that would halt other scanners, and is able to correct common mark sense errors, including misidentification of check marks, "Xs", erasures, and bubbles. The scanner uses 400 dpi image capture, is TWAIN compliant, and costs \$5,995.

**MORE INFO:** Scantron, 1.800.722.6876, <http://www.scantron.com>

*This information is compiled by Rachel Bannister, editorial assistant, from press releases that come into the ISTE editorial office. The products and resources are not reviewed by the L&L staff and are offered here without recommendation. Send press releases and suggestions for entries to [products@iste.org](mailto:products@iste.org).*

**Sagebrush Pinpoint** is an integrated research tool that gathers, evaluates, ranks, and reports the most relevant results—as defined by the district—from multiple sources simultaneously. Sources can include multiple libraries in a system, subscription databases, and the Web.



According to the company, the software now features streamline tasks for school librarians, technology administrators, and students. Users can scroll through search results while buttons and other navigation controls remain stationary and accessible. Contact the company for pricing.

**MORE INFO:** Sagebrush Corporation, 1.800.533.5430, <http://www.sagebrushcorp.com>

The **StarBoard T-17SXL** is a 17" interactive pen-driven LCD monitor/tablet. The StarTablet connects to a PC using USB. The StarBoard suite of presentation and collaboration software allows users to operate in a whiteboard mode or to annotate on top of Windows applications or digital video on the display. The display has SXGA resolution, and the screen tilt is adjustable. Prices range from \$1,995 to \$2,195 depending on purchase volume.



**MORE INFO:** Hitachi Software, 1.888.615.9600, <http://www.hitachi-soft.com>

**Dell's 1710** and **1710n** laser compact printers are capable of up to 27 pages per minute of monochrome printing, with a 15,000-page monthly duty cycle and a 366 Mhz processor. Optional features include a high-yield toner cartridge and an additional 550 sheet paper drawer for a total paper capacity of 800 sheets. Documents print at 1200 X 1200 dpi, and the printer comes with a one-year



warranty. Both printers feature parallel and USB ports, and have at least 16 MB of memory. Prices start at \$199, and discounts may be available on the Web site.

**MORE INFO:** Dell, <http://www.dell.com>

Epson's **PowerLite 82c** and **PowerLite 62c** projectors feature 2,000 ANSI lumens of brightness in a 5.9-pound machine. Both projectors have a 1.2X optical zoom lens, 30-degree automatic keystone correction, and a four-



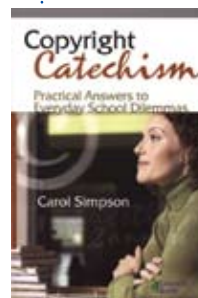
second start up and shut down. According to the company, the projectors feature Instant Off, which eliminates the need for additional cooling time before unplugging the machine. The machines use a lower-watt lamp that requires less electricity and produces less heat than older models, but still maintains brightness levels. Both units have four video input connections for connecting PCs, video players, and audio. The PowerLite 82c costs \$1,299, and the PowerLite 62c costs \$1,199.

**MORE INFO:** Epson, <http://www.epson.com>

Premier Assistive Technology has developed **Key to Access**, a 1 GB MP3 device with accessible tools for use on any computer. Once inserted into a USB port, a floating toolbar appears with a selection of eight software tools. The device never installs software on the computer's hard drive. It does automatically download software updates, and saves the user's personal settings, providing the same accessible features from any computer. The device includes a built-in voice recorder, a 250,000-word talking dictionary, a universal reader for reading e-mails and Web pages, an E-text reader for marking documents, a talking word processor with talking grammar check, scanner, and PDF conversion software, and a text-to-audio application that converts documents to MP3 files for future listening. The Key to Access costs \$349.95 and includes earbud headphones.



**MORE INFO:** Premier Assistive Technology, 1.815.722.5961, <http://www.readingmadeeasy.com>



**Copyright Catechism: Practical Answers to Everyday School Dilemmas** answers 177 actual questions from educators facing copyright issues in schools. Author Carol Simpson, EdD, answers their questions with practical applications of copyright law. These coping strategies for real-world situations provide useable solutions for everyday questions. Examples involve print, online, multimedia, video, audio, broadcast, for-profit, and fair use problems in a question-and-answer format. The book costs \$36.95.

**MORE INFO:** Linworth Publishing, 1.614.436.7107, <http://www.linworth.com>

**ClickBook 9.0** software organizes electronic files into booklet, poster, banner, and card print jobs. The upgraded version includes a PDF generator that converts files to PDFs for cross-platform sharing and design preservation. A zoom feature increases images by 800%, files can be rearranged on a page-by-page basis before printing, headers and footers are easily integrated into the file, and users can access features of the printer, such as turning on the staple option, directly from their computer. The software sells for \$49.95, or an upgrade from previous versions is available for \$24.95.



**MORE INFO:** Blue Squirrel, 1.800.403.0925 ext. 0, <http://www.bluesquirrel.com>

Thomson Gale has published the **Encyclopedia of Science, Technology, and Ethics**, a comprehensive and current survey of issues, ideas, and events that shape the relationship between humankind's knowledge and its conscience.



Consisting of four volumes and approximately 675 articles, the encyclopedia considers both the professional ethics of science and technology, and the ethical and political issues raised by these disciplines in modern society. The entries, arranged alphabetically, range from 250 to 5,000 words and include article-specific annotated bibliographies that encourage further study and research. The 1,800-page set costs \$425.

**MORE INFO:** Thomson Gale, 1.800.877.GALE, <http://www.gale.com>

The **College Hound** is an online search engine that helps high school students research colleges and universities. A survey collects the student's data and returns search results with schools and services that match their criteria. The Web site includes a college toolbox with information on preparing for college, such as a planning calendar, financial aid hints, roommate and packing guides, and creating a portfolio. Guidance counselors can view their students' survey results and access additional tools and information to further assist students. There are sections for parents and admissions officers as well. The site is available at no cost, and a simple registration is required for access to the search engine.



**MORE INFO:** The College Hound, <http://www.collegehound.com>

**TeachingBooks.net** is a searchable Web resource of more than 10,000 author programs, book readings, book guides, and multimedia resources.



Users can search by author, title, keyword, grade level, or subject. A single button provides access to English language learner materials and state book award resources. An Educator Area has more than 600 thematic K–12 booklists, information on most

English language children's and young adult book awards and distinctions, as well as links to professional resources for educators.

**MORE INFO:** TeachingBooks.net, 1.608.257.2919, <http://www.teachingbooks.net>

The **Teacher's Guide to International Collaboration on the Internet** is available on the U.S. Department of Education's Web site. The guide provides tutorials, tips, online and print resources, as well as specific curriculum-based projects in which teachers can participate to establish school-to-school global interaction on the Internet. Written and revised by a team through iEARN-USA, the guide is freely available to educators.

**MORE INFO:** Department of Education, <http://www.ed.gov/teachers/how/tech/international>



**Educational Leader** is an interactive professional development Web site for K–8 teachers, literacy coaches, and mentors. The subscription-based site offers ongoing support of literacy topics, downloadable classroom resources, and best practice model

lessons. As an interactive learning community, users also have access to professional learning opportunities, collaboration, discussion, and support for classroom implementation. Lessons are delivered by audio, message boards, past discussion threads, and live chats. The site monitors learning progress and professional development credit hours, so subscribers can print a report as documentation of credit hours earned. The cost is \$295 per person for a 12-month online subscription.

**MORE INFO:** Benchmark Education Company, 1.877.236.2465, <http://www.educationalleader.com>