Ethnography Supports Changes to Student-Centered Instruction

TQR 4th Annual Conference

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US Education is changing

Race to the Top (RTTT)
Race to the Top: Annual Professional Performance Review

Federal Programs
State Teacher Evaluations

Advancing Technology

No Child Left Behind
Schools have to adapt

Standards
- Common Core State Standards
- Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College & Careers

Assessments

Electronic Testing
- NWEA
- Acuity
- Yearly Progress Pro (YPP)
Xerox Educational Assessment Management System supports adaptive learning
Aiding the teacher behind the assessment
Studying the Pilot

Work Practice Study

Alpha Test: 2011-12 school year
- Technology pilot in 4 elementary schools, ~100 teachers, ~1,200 students.
- Focus on assessment work process, user experience and administration data needs

Beta Test: 2012-13 school year
- Additional schools, commercialization focus
- Identifying process changes and improvements
Site Challenges

No video allowed in classrooms

- Relied on observation, audio and notes

Team coordination

- Participants confused by multiple Xerox contacts
- Repeated information transfer
Ethnography Process & Methods

1) Systematic Observation
2) Open-ended Interview
3) Representing the Data
4) Data Analysis
5) Co-design: Prototype
5) Co-design: Analytic

Create user Videotape Library and Database
• Video records
• Transcripts
• Site maps
• Mock-ups
• Scenarios of use
Ethnographic Technology

Observation & Recording

Brainstorming Co-development

Transcription Data Analysis

Representations
Outcomes

• Improving integration with teacher processes
  - Making the assessment process seamless

• Flexibility for forming learning groups
  - Providing data needed for regrouping

• Administration roles and requirements added
  - New data analytics for school and district personnel
Insights

• Different timelines accelerated feedback
  • Limited teacher and administrator availability
  • Ethnographers shared findings with pilot team, & participants iteratively

• Utilized pilot support team experiences

• Identified new development areas and opportunities

• Ethnographic process still works without technology
Questions?

Thank you