

## **Action Research/Action Learning at One Laptop per Child Australia**

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The vision of One Laptop per Child (OLPC) Australia is “to improve the lives of children living in rural and remote Australia by providing them with a purpose-built educational tool that is rugged, low-cost, low-power and connected - the XO laptop” (source: <http://www.laptop.org.au/vision/overview>).

OLPC Australia intends to achieve their mission by providing the XO laptops to children in remote Australian schools and communities. The deployment model by which the XO laptops are distributed and the educators trained has changed dramatically over the past year. These changes are based on regular feedback and debrief sessions that could easily be considered a form Action Research/Action Learning. More recently, I have been exploring the means by which AR/AL can be explicitly incorporated into the deployment model at OLPC Australia as part of my PhD research at the University of Sydney.

As outlined in Skerritt and Perry (2002), I will be conducting a core-research project and a thesis action research project simultaneously to ensure both the goals of OLPC Australia, and my personal PhD research, are met. The goal of my thesis action research project is to capture observations and reflections of people involved in the deployment of purpose built education laptops called XOs by OLPC Australia to help understand how technology transfer programs can be better structured and managed to facilitate the design of adaptations and innovative uses of foreign technologies by Indigenous Australian communities.

As the Education and Research Manager at OLPC Australia, I assume overall responsibility to ensure the training and evaluation phases of the visit provide the most value to the schools and communities. In both the core-research project and thesis action research project, my role privileges me with the ability to influence and guide what is observed and discussed by those participating in this program. These observations and discussions will be with the school staff and members of the community who are responsible for guiding the use of the XO laptops by the children.

This catalyst paper provide an opportunity for the audience to contribute to the manner by which AR/AL can be used to meet the goals of the core-research and thesis action research projects, and in doing so, help OLPC Australia become a more responsive, flexible and effective organisation.