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Evaluation of handheld computers for direct systematic classroom observation.

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Summary: Through this study the authors evaluate outcomes associated with the use of handheld computers by interventionists in improving the efficiency of direct systematic classroom observation. Information from observations is used by interventionists for treatment planning and evaluation. In this study, interventionists were trained to use personal digital assistants with classroom observational software for use with students who displayed low levels of academic engagement. Results indicated that the personal digital assistants and observational software were perceived as user-friendly, increased computer self-efficacy, and facilitated treatment planning and evaluation. Discussion focuses on implications for use of handheld computers and mobile devices by interventionists.

Classification: R30 Q70 U50

Keywords: technology-based assessments; classroom observation; information technology; portable technologies; intervention planning; research; observational software; educational diagnosis; treatment planning; treatment evaluation; student observation; teacher observation; usage; self-efficacy; user satisfaction
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