

PTkau: 00: Intro: Why DT?

Video Name: Don't students already know this?

Presenters: Matu Ngaropo (Te Rarawa, Tuhoe, Ngāti Porou me Ngāti Kahungunu) and Tim Bell

Matu: You might hear people say that young people know all about digital technology but are they just proficient users of technology who don't really understand it?

Let's have a look at what's really going on.

Tim: Back in 2001 the psychologist Albert Bandura said "Everyday life is increasingly regulated by complex technologies that most people neither understand nor believe they can do much to influence." It doesn't sound very good does it.

There is a quip that people sometimes use which says that there are only two industries that call their customers users. In the digital technologies industry, like the drug industry, the users get addicted to things. They want better and better things and people are making money from them. Luckily in the digital industry there is a lot of positive stuff going on. There are a lot of people being helped, we are making the world a better place but nevertheless do we just want to be users?

This diagram [refer to the screen] helps us to see how we can help our students to not just be users but to actually take some ownership about this digital world that's happening around them. Instead of just being someone who uses what they are given, being stuck with the way things are we empower them by saying you can modify things. Maybe even you can create new things and that helps them to see the way these things are made, how they can help influence them. They may not chose to make new things but at least they understand it and at least when they are thinking about the way that things are going when they are having influence on the world around them they are doing it from an informed point of view rather than just seeing it as some complex technology that they don't understand and they don't think they can influence.

Giving students knowledge about how to use digital tools gives them agency. We are not really telling them what to build but we are teaching them how to build new things. It's up to their creativity what they are going to do with it one day. We want to open up this new learning area to students so that we can help them to succeed in this digital world.

It's important for students to know how to use digital devices but knowing how to create new software and hardware from their ideas is even more empowering.