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Introduction to reviews and research of note

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Recent Research of Note

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Management educators today are faced with numerous troubling questions: How to design and create a supportive and positive learning environment for students? How to build strong relationships with students, connect with these new Gen Y'ers (i.e., born between 1978 and 1999)? How to train a community of learners who are able to think and reflect critically? The books reviewed in this issue tackle two such concerns in a simplistic, but practical fashion – train management students to think critically in a digital age.

The first book titled, *Blogs, Wikis, Podcasts and Other Powerful Web Tools for Classrooms* authored by Will Richardson, provides an overview of a variety of information technologies, and how they can be incorporated into daily classroom teaching. The book provides examples of how these tools are being used in education and in classrooms. The reader, be it a novice or a technically savvy educator, is guided with detailed instructions on the usage of each tool with wide-ranging examples.

Keith Hamon, drawing upon his expertise in administering educational technology programs, provides a brief but comprehensive review of the book. He concludes that the book is a useful and practical guide both for K-12 classes, corporate, and higher education. However, he worries that the book does not engage the reader in any theoretical and pedagogical discussions. This constricts the contributions of the book as a complete guide for those educators interested in understanding the implications of technology for management education, learning, and in acquiring the relevant comprehensive knowledge – both theoretical and practical.

The second book, *Organizational Behavior and Work: A Critical Introduction* written by Fiona Wilson, is a textbook with a different approach toward organizational behavior. The book adopts a critical management approach.

Sambhavi Lakshminarayan's review is very informative. She focuses attention on the originality of the approach and addresses features that make the book "piquant and individualistic." She mentions how the author raises doubts about the validity of popular and accepted models (i.e., Maslow's theory, etc.) and explores new topics such as emotions in the workplace, feelings, and compassion, "rarely discussed in detail in standard texts." She stamps the book as a "front-runner," "easy, even entertaining," and an excellent choice for all organizational behavior courses.