

Case study

Yokohama Takata Elementary School

»With ScanSnap it is easy to prepare lessons in which children can learn collaboratively and come up with new insights or other discoveries.«

Sachie Sato, Professor, Kanazawa Seiryo University (previously at Yokohama Takata Elementary School)



The customer

Yokohama Takata Elementary School is known for its active use of ICT, and has been recognized as a model school under the "Pioneer School Yokohama" program, whereby the Yokohama City Board of Education is seeking to provide education that can meet the demands of a new era.

Palpable convenience of converting paper to electronic form

Yokohama Takata Elementary School is known for its active use of ICT. One of its staff in particular who has earned a strong reputation for such was Professor Sachie Sato, who taught at the school up until March this year, and who worked specifically on innovative new uses for ICT in the teaching of Japanese.

She first used ScanSnap some six or seven years ago, recalling her impressions by saying, "I was simply astonished, though, at how it could convert to PDF files in an instant." She recounted, "I made extensive use of it back then for digitizing administrative documents such as school business plans. It was helpful to be able to use PDF format to distribute documents, which previously had to be stored on paper, and to have them available whenever I needed them."

She also reports how valuable it was in class for scanning and using cards made by the children, or for storing survey forms that would otherwise take up a lot of space.

Immediately available tool for collaborative learning

We went on to ask her about the features of the iX500, a new ScanSnap model, and how its functions will prove useful at schools in the future.

The key feature of the iX500 is its ability to send data to a smartphone or tablet via Wi-Fi. That is, because PDF files can be sent straight to a tablet or other device and stored there without the need for a PC*. Professor Sato commented that, "I can see the potential for this function at schools where an increasing number of lessons are making use of tablets."

* A connection to a PC is still needed for the initial setup.

The customer

Customer: Yokohama Takata Elementary School
Country: Japan
Industry: Education

The solution

ScanSnap has proved to be a useful tool for teaching at Yokohama Takata Elementary School, an active user of ICT. It has provided valuable service in such tasks as digitizing school business plans and other administrative documents, and also in teaching, where it is used for storing survey forms or cards produced by students.

It also has a part to play in the classroom, helping with collaborative learning (in which the children learn from each other) by scanning students' handwritten cards and displaying them on the electronic blackboard for everyone to see.

The benefits

- Utilize collaborative learning in ways that take advantage of both analog and digital media
- Can display scanned data on an electronic blackboard immediately, saving time

Currently, use of collaborative learning (whereby children learn from one another) is being introduced at schools through the Learning Innovation Program of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. The provision of tablets as support tools under this program has already started at some schools, but it is not something that can be introduced immediately at all schools. This has directed attention toward ScanSnap as a tool for simple collaborative learning, even at schools that do not have tablets.

Immediately available tool for collaborative learning

Professor Sato offered, as an example, a lesson at Takata Elementary.

"When presenting the children's learning cards selected for each group and talking about which idea is best, for example, these can be shown to everyone at once by scanning them with ScanSnap and displaying them on the electronic blackboard. It is now commonplace in all classrooms to have a large display device such as a digital TV, and with these it is easy to prepare lessons in which children can learn collaboratively and come up with new insights or other discoveries."

Professor Sato expressed her appreciation for ScanSnap with its ability to take advantage of the best of both analog and digital media, saying "While writing on a tablet is good, with the younger children in particular, you want them to write by hand." She also commented on lesson outcomes, noting that showing a picture will interest children more than trying to explain something in words and that "It is even better if the picture is something students have produced themselves. This even gets otherwise quiet children to raise their hands to offer an answer."

However, efficient use must be made of time if such lessons are to be provided. "In the past, when we wanted to show everyone something written by one of the children, we needed to rewrite it on bigger paper and put it up on the blackboard. However, using ScanSnap allows us to keep the lesson moving forward without interruption."

Products and services

- ScanSnap iX500
- ScanSnap S1500



Achieving wider awareness of model uses is important

Since the spring, Professor Sato has been teaching university students who will be teachers in the future. She told us how, at a recent seminar, she asked students to make paper-based presentations, but was aware that the presentations could have been conveyed to everyone so much more easily if only ScanSnap had been available to scan them and put them up on a large display screen.

In this context, she also noted that many schools still lack the infrastructure needed for the practice of collaborative learning they are being asked to adopt, and for this reason it is important to increase the number of case studies on how to implement collaborative learning and teaching in ways that involve minimal investment in ICT. Easy enough for anyone to use, ScanSnap has what is needed to make an immediate start on collaborative learning. Professor Sato is hopeful that sample lessons and ways of using the technology can be made widely available as a reference for schools as they strive to make use of technology in the future.

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