

Integrating Technology

For centuries, Jewish wisdom was transmitted orally. Eventually, much was written down; and Jewish wisdom could be transmitted more widely. Thus, a combination of oral tradition and the written (or printed) word became the method of transmission. Today, technology offers even greater opportunities to pass down Jewish wisdom.

The vast majority of today's learners were born in the era of technology and are avid consumers and connoisseurs of digital spaces. They think in images, communicate via devices, use shortcuts, emojis and visuals, seek information online, are not afraid of trying digital tools, enjoy documenting experiences using multi-modal technology.

More and more educators are children of the technology age and easily use new platforms in their teaching. At the same time, many teachers born before the technological era have

had to learn a new way to communicate, teach, and engage with learners, creating an imbalance that [Marc Prensky discussed in some depth](#).

The new technology, however, should not become the end goal of pedagogy. As emphasized by the authors of [The Google Infused Classroom](#), technology is not meant to be the purpose but rather a means to transmitting wisdom.

- Ask how technology fits into the overall mission of a lesson:
 - Is the goal to teach technology or the content?
 - Are we integrating technology for the sake of integrating technology or to make lessons richer, foster learner collaboration, and facilitate access to learning wherever the learners happen to be?

- **One Favorite Tool**

- Learners enjoy walking around the room while brainstorming ideas and posting sticky notes on a wall while commenting on each other's ideas. [Padlet](#) allows learners to share and collaborate by creating a visually appealing **digital wall** by uploading videos or documents, snapping a selfie, and recording interviews.

- Try to use a new technology tool in the classroom this year. Consider how you can use technology to transform a traditional pedagogic method.
- Poll learners to find out which technological tools they like best Ask learners to teach you a tool they particularly like
- Pair learners who are tech savvy with learners who need extra help with technology tools.

מֹשֶׁה קִבַּל תּוֹרָה מִסִּינַי,
 וּמִסָּרָה לִיהוֹשֻׁעַ, וְיִהוֹשֻׁעַ
 לְזִקְנִים, וְזִקְנִים לְנְבִיאִים,
 וְנְבִיאִים מִסָּרוּהָ לְאַנְשֵׁי
 כְּנֶסֶת הַגְּדוּלָּה.
 (פרקי אבות א:א)

Moses received the Torah
 from Sinai and transmitted it
 to Joshua. And Joshua
 (transmitted it) to the elders,
 and the elders to the prophets
 and the prophets transmitted
 it to the Men of the
 Great Assembly.

(Pirkei Avot 1:1)

My Own Thoughts About Integrating Technology