



## Webinar: e-Materials and Technology, Part II

### *Opportunities and Challenges for e-Materials in EGR in India and Zambia*

May 24, 2017

### NAGARAJU PAPPU

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#### *Chief Learning Scientist, EkStep*

**N**agaraju Pappu is Chief Learning Scientist at EkStep in India and has over 23 years experience as a computer scientist and software architect. He was also the chief originator of one of the largest e-Learning platforms in India for higher education. Apart from his experience in software architecture and the learning sciences, Nagaraju is also an expert in Indian language linguistics and cultural theories of language learning.

Prior to joining EkStep, Nagaraju was the founder and Chief Architect at Canopus Consulting, a high-end consulting firm specializing in large scale software architecture. In addition, he was a co-founder of Ilimi, a next generation MOOC platform now serving as a base learning platform by EkStep. Earlier in his career, Pappu was the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of Planetasia, one of the earliest internet technology companies in India, as well as a senior server technologist at Fujitsu Labs and Oracle.

### CARRIE LEWIS

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#### *Senior Project Director, EDC-Zambia*

**F**or over twenty-five years Carrie Lewis has been designing, implementing, and managing programs that improve access to quality education, domestically and internationally -- primarily in Africa. An expert in early education, literacy and teacher professional development, Lewis' work fed into the creation of e-learning materials in Zambia and she continues to be part of EDC's efforts to design programs that are both context-relevant and sustainable. She is skilled in materials development, and has developed professional development programs for local teachers. Her work has supported system-wide reform efforts in Qatar, Benin, Tanzania, Zanzibar, Madagascar, the Comoros, Malawi and Zambia. She is most interested in bridging schools with their local communities to achieve quality education

She is currently involved in studying early grade reading in community schools and implementing early childhood and early grade reading programs in Africa.

Ms. Lewis has a MS.Ed. in Elementary Education and is fluent in French.

## BRIJ KOTHARI

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### *Academic and Social Entrepreneur, IIM – PlanetRead – BookBox*

**B**rij Kothari is an academic and social entrepreneur. He is on the faculty of IIM Ahmedabad and the founder of PlanetRead (non-profit) and BookBox (for-profit), dedicated to scalable solutions for literacy and language learning.

At IIM and PlanetRead, Brij and his team have innovated, researched and implemented Same Language Subtitling (SLS) on television for mass literacy. SLS on Bollywood film songs can potentially deliver daily reading to half a billion in India, prompting Bill Clinton to call it “a small change that has a staggering impact on people’s lives.”

BookBox produces animated stories for children, powered by SLS, called, AniBooks, in more than 30 languages. The AniBooks have already clocked over 35 million views on YouTube.

The SLS innovation is the recipient of the International Literacy Prize from the Library of Congress (Washington, D.C.) and awards from the All Children Reading Grand Challenge (USAID), Tech Museum of Innovation (San Jose), the Institute for Social Inventions (London), Development Marketplace (World Bank) and the NASSOM Foundation. Brij has served on the World Economic Forum’s Global Agenda Council for Education (2012–2016).

Brij grew up in the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in Pondicherry, India. He has a Ph.D. in Education from Cornell University and a Masters in Physics from IIT, Kanpur.

## ANTHONY BLOOME

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### *Senior Education Technology Specialist, USAID*

**A**nthony Bloome is the Senior Education Technology Specialist at USAID. He has worked as a distance education specialist at USAID since 2009 where he provides technical advice to HQ, Missions and counterpart agencies regarding the appropriate uses of technology to support quality educational outcomes in developing countries. He is the campaign director for All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development, a global competition to catalyze innovations to advance early grade reading, and is the founder of the Mobiles in Education (mEducation) Alliance, an international stakeholder initiative designed to evaluate and dramatically accelerate the scalable utilization of appropriate technologies to support education.

Prior to joining USAID, he was Peace Corps’ technology for development specialist for three years and a distance education specialist for the World Bank in Washington, D.C. and Zimbabwe for eleven years where he focused on technology for health, education, and youth and workforce development among other topic areas. He has a MA in International Telecommunications from George Mason University.