Rewired: Understanding the iGeneration and How They Learn, a soon-to-be-published book by psychology professor Larry Rosen, presents some fascinating information on how today's young people use—and are affected by—communication technology. Some of his findings, which he has written about on his blog, have important implications for educators and, I think, will interest Tech Directions readers.

Rosen and his colleagues at California State University-Dominguez Hills have conducted extensive research on generational differences in the use of technology and media. He breaks the generations into Baby Boomers (those born from 1946 through 1964); Generation X (1965-1979); the 'Net (Internet) Generation (born 1980 or later; also called Generation Y or the Millennial Generation); and what he dubis the iGeneration (elementary-school-age and younger). (The "i" comes from the many recently available devices with "i" in their names—iPod, iPhone, iTouch, iP, and so forth.)

Both iGen and younger 'Net Gen individuals (those now in middle and high school), he says, “have grown up with the largest storehouse of information in history—the Internet—and from an early age they learned to play online games, send e-mail to grandma and grandpa, and watch videos. As they get older, they learned to Google anything they wanted to know, MapQuest directions, go to Wikipedia for school reports, and use dictionary.com for definitions. Many have never used a card catalog, a "real" encyclopedia, or Webster's Dictionary.” And, Rosen notes, members of the iGeneration are embracing technology even earlier than their older siblings.