

E-LEARNING RESOURCES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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Abstract

Currently e-Learning has become one of the effective alternatives to the distance learners. Online learning resources represent one of the most common sources for learning among higher education students. E- Learning technology is a recent development and a wonderful gift by the present day technological advancement and innovation. Information technology has given a new shape to the learning process. Digital skills should be part of education to ensure that every student, independent from age and background, can equally participate and benefit from the infinite knowledge of the web. The contribution and general significance of electronic learning resources are more substantial than of usual paper-based media.

Keywords: E-Learning, Higher Education, ICTs

Introduction

In the present day, ICTs are taking centre stage in almost every segment of life. They help to provide a solution to most of the problems troubling educational systems. There is a growth in understanding ICTs in governance, business, and in the development process, still less known about e-learning, particularly about “Blended Learning” in the institution of learning. Digital delivered content, network-based services and tutoring support E-learning is any technologically mediate learning mistreatment of computers whether or not from a distance or in face to face room setting (computer-assisted learning), it's a shift from ancient education or coaching to ICT-based personalized, flexible, individual, self-organized, collaboration learning supported a community of learners, teachers, helper, experts.

In the course of teaching students, now, institutions of higher education, guided by new teaching programs, tend to scale down close contacts between students and teachers. It may provide self-tuition academic improvement, increasing effectiveness of the educational process, and reduction in expenditure for facility support required to professional skill training up to existing standards of modern society. Therefore, the contribution and general significance of electronic learning resources are more substantial than of usual paper-based media.

Currently e-Learning has become one of the effective alternatives to the distance learners. As a result educators are more interested in applying emerging technology to create new teaching-learning environments to meet the ever-increasing and ever-changing nature of learning needs of the students. It is, thus, the creative use of technology that can enhance the capacity of students to acquire knowledge, skills and value system.

E-learning is an inclusive terminology for all forms of educational technology that electronically or technologically support learning and teaching. Bernard Luskin advocates that the "e" should be interpreted to mean "exciting, energetic, enthusiastic, emotional, extended, excellent, and

educational" in addition to "electronic." This broad interpretation focuses on new applications and developments, and also brings learning and media psychology into consideration.

E-learning -Concept

E-learning is an abbreviation of the term 'electronic learning'. E-learning literally means the type of learning carried out, facilitated or supported by some or the other electronic gadgets, media or resources. Broadly speaking, e-learning is nothing but learning facilitated by the use of a range of electronic media and technology which include mainframe computers, microphones, listening devices, audio and visual tapes, floppy diskettes, multimedia CD-ROMs, interactive videodisks and advanced ICT.

E-Learning is a promising instructional medium as well as a ripe area in which to conduct investigation on its impact and effectiveness on student knowledge acquisition and teaching methodology. Many organizations adapt E-Learning to train employees while educational institutions use technology and internet to improve the quality of education. There are many issues teachers and students encounter during the online teaching and learning process. With all the issues and the limited experience in an evolving technology, there is a pressing need to evaluate E-Learning to increase knowledge of its influence and effectiveness on educational activities.

Types Of E-Learning Resources

E-Resources are vital sources of e-learning. Digital technology, when applied to the stored intellect, has made the task very easy, speedy and comfortable. The information collected through the ages can be effectively used for further research, betterment and overall development of the society. Now, e-resources or e-learning resources are easily accessible even in remote areas. E-resources also solve storage problems and control the flood of information. E-learning resources are mainly available in three forms or types' digital print, digital audio and digital video.

Web-based Resources

Web resources or web-based resources include Web-based applications or services that are accessed using HTTP or HTTPS. Web-based resources encompass every 'thing' or 'entity' that can be identified, named, addressed, accessed or handled, in any way whatsoever, in the web at large, or in any networked information system. Examples include: Microsoft Outlook Web Access and other Web-based email programs, Web portals, corporate intranets, and standard Web servers. We easily navigate on the web, searching for articles and videos, and sharing information with our friends. These tasks seem easy; however they are not that easy for everyone. There are still many people for whom the web is a confusing, dark space. Digital skills should be part of education to ensure that every student, independent from age and background, can equally participate and benefit from the infinite knowledge of the web.

Online learning resources represent one of the most common sources for learning among higher education institute students. Students nowadays are not limited to electronic resources produced and delivered by their higher education institute and can access an abundance of online learning resources themselves. This increases the importance of informal learning environment and

personal preferences in the modern higher education institute context. New online and mobile technologies support new forms of formal, informal and random learning. The boundaries between formal and informal learning are blurring. Technology is becoming increasingly pervasive in higher education institutions learning environments, which is why students and professors must develop their ICT competency and ICT literacy in order to be able to manage the various online learning resources that are constantly emerging.

Challenges with e-learning

One problem identified by both teachers and students is the lack of knowledge and skills of how to use the technological tools with which they are equipped in their educational practices. The common conception among these institutions is said to be that such tools presents problems and could lead to many unnecessary costs. This is identified as the main reason these institutions and teachers in developing countries still use technological tools such as cassettes and prints when delivering educational content and information. Another challenge that has to be identified when it comes to apply e-learning for higher educational purposes is that a large number of institutions in developing countries are experiencing inadequacy in the three areas most important for their success; access to a high quality faculty, committed and well-prepared students, and sufficient resources. In addition, students do not get the opportunity to use creative or flexible digital learning tools.

E-learning has been provided with different terminologies such as “online learning”, “internet learning”, “distributed learning”, “networked learning”, “tele learning”, “virtual learning”, “computer assisted learning”, “web-based learning”, and “distance learning”. E-learning is taken to be all aspects of electronically supported learning (whether in networked/non-networked environments) whereby the learner is interacting with teachers, content and other learners regardless of place and time. E-learning are applications and use of a computer connected to a network, that offers the possibility to learn from anywhere, anytime, in any rhythm, with any means, and can promote synchronous learning with a lot of opportunities for social interaction. E-learning includes all aspects of electronic delivery of pictures, text or sounds for a presentation or project, or using an interactive whiteboard in a lesson.

Conclusion

Teachers should be able to interact not only with the tools providing their communication with the students, but to obtain all the skills of activity management. E-learning content encompasses all the information necessary for educatory process: electronic textbooks, presentations, tests, video classes practical and laboratory courses and workshops, etc. Therefore developing online courses requires much time and effort. E- Learning technology is a recent development and a wonderful gift by the present day technological advancement and innovation. Information technology has given a new shape to the learning process.

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