

Рис. 1. Концептуальная модель мобильного обучения

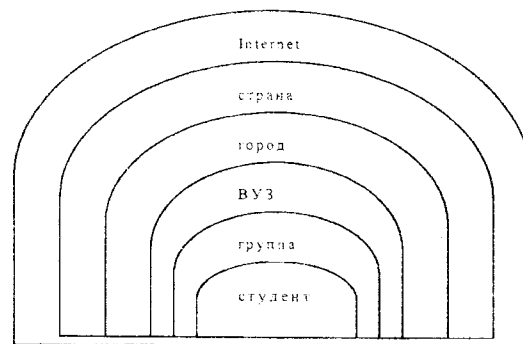


Рис. 2. Модель среды мобильного обучения

По нашему мнению необходимость в М-обучении будет возрастать по мере расширения функциональности мобильных устройств до возможностей компьютеров и планшетов. Хотя заметим, что портативными устройствами при этом управлять сложнее, чем компьютерами, например, по причине меньшего дисплея и вытекающей из этого большей вложенности меню.

Опыт внедрения мобильных средств обучения на некоторых кафедрах НМетАУ позволяет отметить следующие положительные результаты такого эксперимента:

- М-обучение помогает улучшить письменные и математические навыки студентов,
- М-обучение позволяет самому обучаемому определить те области, в которых требуется более интенсивное освоение учебного материала,
- М-обучение служит посредником между очным обучением и обучением с использованием компьютера (электронное обучение),
- М-обучение повышает интерес к образованию у тех студентов, которые активно используют мобильные устройства.

Кроме того, опыт внедрения М-обучения позволяет указать перспективные направления его развития: тестирование; учебные исследования; контекстное обучение; развитие мобильных учебных социальных сетей; применение мобильных учебных игр; внедрение голосового мобильного контента с интерактивным оцениванием.

ONLINE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES FOR EFL TEACHERS

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Professional development is an extremely important issue so far as foreign language teachers are concerned. As classroom environment, teaching tools and the language itself is changing all the time, it is necessary for teachers to keep their knowledge, skills and competences up-to-date as well as acquire the new ones. It is not enough to know much about the language and be fluent as a native speaker. In today's multitasking digital world the teacher of a foreign language must be able to fulfil the tasks of a researcher, manager and IT professional. For these reasons there is an obvious need for attending training sessions, international and local conferences, practical workshops and seminars for as long as a teacher remains in the profession.

The modern technology can offer a great help to take that challenge. A quite convenient means of staying in tune with rapid changes in the teaching practices is through webinars, or **webinars** for short. A webinar saves the time and money you would spend on travelling to attend a real-life event. It gives the opportunity to watch a presentation with audio and video, which are usually made downloadable for later playback. To participate in a webinar is a high-speed Internet connection, an appropriate web-browser (e.g. Internet Explorer 6, Chrome 14, Firefox 3) and free software installed on your computer (e.g. *Zoom*, *Blackboard Collaborate*, *Adobe Acrobat Connect* or *Saba Centre*). A bit more difficult thing is to find out what are the upcoming webinars about, how to register and when to log in.

The information about the webinars you can join is usually available on the official web-sites of leading publishers of EFL teaching materials, including Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Pearson ELT and Macmillan. Along with plenty of useful teaching resources, like printable ready-to-use lessons, sample pages of course-books or articles written by experts in the English language teaching practice, there are advertisements for the next webinar, highlighting the presenter's profile and the key points of live video presentation. If interested in participating, you have to fill in a registration form, providing such personal details as your name and e-mail address. Soon after that a letter of confirmation will come into your e-mail box, saying that you are registered for the event.

A piece of valuable advice here is to check what time exactly the webinar starts in Ukraine. For example, if it is said to start at 3:30 PM (GMT), it means that the recording will take place in Greenwich Mean Time zone, so you can actually join the session in Kyiv two hours later, at 17.30. To learn how to switch between time zones and find out what time the session will run in Ukraine visit www.timeanddate.com.

Another tip is to make sure that your computer is setup for the event. Remember to click on the link «System check» you will receive by e-mail in advance of the webinar and wait a few moments of installation. You can then follow the link provided in the e-mail which invites you to join.

It is always a good idea to log in at least 15 min. prior to the scheduled start time in order to adjust audio settings. For most webinars, video and audio will be used by the presenter only, meaning that you will need speakers or headphones to hear what is being said rather than a webcam or microphone to interact in person. In any case you will be informed if this equipment is needed. Also, you will receive the instruction what name to choose when joining the session. In fact, you might be asked to log in as a «Guest», use a nickname or provide your real full name.

During the webinar you will see the main content of the presentation displayed on the whiteboard and the presenters themselves in the video window. To the left there will be the tools to help you to interact on-line. By choosing from various emoticons you can show how you are feeling about that is going on, you can signal whether you agree or disagree with the presenter and take part in polls by selecting from Yes/No or from multiple choice options. Finally, you can type into the chat window to ask and answer questions and communicate with other participants.

Webinars are a great source of information. You can learn about various topics in an interesting medium and very often at no cost to you. However, this is only a one-day event in contrast to several weeks' **online training courses**, offered by some leading organisations specialized in supporting EFL teachers worldwide.

One of the well-known professional associations of EFL teachers is TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) Inc. On the official web-site <http://www.tesol.org> you can register for TESOL's virtual seminars, which are 90- to 120-minute webcasts.

conducted by leaders in the field and focused on key issues in both English language teaching and learning. The on-line seminars are free for TESOL members and cost US\$45 for non-members. The membership for EFL teachers from Ukraine, which is considered as one of the countries with a GNI per capita of less than US\$15,000, amounts to only US\$45 per year, so if you attend two or more seminars, your membership will pay for itself.

What is more, TESOL offers four certificate programs and a growing number of online courses to help busy EFL teachers to develop leadership skills, learn and improve core competencies, and stay abreast of the latest developments in the dynamic field of English language teaching and learning.

The British Council is another organisation which continuously assists the EFL teachers in their professional development and provides wonderful opportunities to enhance their qualifications. In particular, you can learn the details and choose a training course to apply for at <http://www.britishcouncil.org/ukraine-education-teacher-training.htm>

The most highly motivated EFL teachers, who are both dedicated to their own professional development and willing to share their knowledge with colleagues, should definitely take part in the E-Teacher Scholarship Programme, which is funded through the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. The programme offers online graduate level courses which explore major areas of the academic specialty of teaching English as a foreign language (TEFL), aiming at developing specific classroom-ready skills or cultivating deeper practices of reflection and inquiry. In addition to specific knowledge of the major areas of TEFL, each course engages participants in an innovative distance-learning programme, employing the latest modern technology and introducing the most recent TEFL methods and techniques.

The E-Teacher scholarship programme is open to non-U.S. citizens living outside the United States. Ukrainian English language professionals may contact the Public Affairs section of U.S. Embassy in Kyiv for up-to-date information (<http://ukraine.usembassy.gov/relo.html>).

The last but not the least type of online resources for professional development of EFL teachers is **blogs**. A blog is a diary, or regular record of your thoughts, opinions and experiences, accessible on the Internet for other people to read. You can use professional development blogs to share your reflections on classroom practice, to hear about new moves in the TEFL world, to discover new teaching tools and learning activities and, thus, motivate yourself. Again, the publishers of EFL literature are among the first to mention there (<http://www.macmillandictionaryblog.com>, <http://oupeltglobalblog.com> and <http://teachertwoteacher.wordpress.com>).

After getting used to reading blogs and leaving comments you may be even inspired to create your own blog at <http://www.blogger.com>, <http://www.wordpress.com> or <http://www.edublogs.com>.

Hopefully, the free online professional development resources discussed above could help EFL teachers to upgrade their teaching skills and bring a higher degree of satisfaction and success in the work they do.