УДК 377.81

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ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF ONLINE LEARNING

Abstraction: The article deals with the influence of computer technologies and the Internet upon the learning efficiency, functions and capabilities of the Internet for the implementation of an active learning environment, as well as the application and implementation of teaching methods with the help of the Internet.
Key words: blended learning, Internet technologies, information technologies, distance education

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ПЕРЕВАГИ ТА НЕДОЛІКИ ОН-ЛАЙН НАВЧАННЯ

Анотація: В статті розглядається вплив комп'ютерних технологій та інтернету на ефективність навчання, функції та можливості Інтернету для впровадження активного навчального середовища, використання і впровадження навчальних методик з використанням Інтернету.
Ключові слова: змішане навчання, Інтернет технології, інформаційні технології, дистанційне навчання

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ПРЕИМУЩЕСТВА И НЕДОСТАТКИ ОН-ЛАЙН ОБУЧЕНИЯ

Аннотация: В статье рассматривается влияние компьютерных технологий и интернета на эффективность обучения, функции и возможности Интернета для внедрения активной учебной среды, использование и внедрение учебных методик с использованием Интернета.
Ключевые слова: смешанное обучение, Интернет-технологии, информационные технологии, дистанционное обучение

There is no room for doubt that everything changes in the course of learning because, on the one hand, teachers are discovering more and more ways to apply technologies in learning, and on the other hand, today the younger generation develops their views, tastes, and attitudes to events mainly when exposed to mass media, communication, and educational technologies. Since there is a substantial

growth in the use of the Internet, its interconnected technologies ensure a toolkit of educational and information resources to make in-class teaching and learning better. Many of the current changes taking place in the classroom are possible because the Internet grants students access to virtually unlimited amounts of information, comprehending flexible, blended, and interactive mastery of knowledge and research.

Computer technologies and the Internet can significantly influence learning efficiency. These technologies make it possible for the teacher to implement complex in-class learning tasks, apply and implement powerful teaching methods. Also, some functions and capabilities of the Internet make it possible to implement an active learning environment that motivates students to solve problems, make decisions, and become communicators.

The application and implementation of teaching methods with the help of the Internet offer some advantages for the organization of the educational process:

• Online course participants may access tasks at any time, and it is up to the students where they take this course;

• availability of the course from anywhere in the world with Internet access.

• a wide range of information provided. Thanks to the Internet, a student can refer to any world sources (resources of other educational centers, electronic libraries around the world, etc.) right in the middle of the process of working on the course material;

• fast provision of information. Conventional teaching tends to use a book as the source of information; but its recovery cycle takes months and even years. The Internet makes it possible to update any information and provides access to it in no time;

• more flexible organization of the educational process. Any subject is made up of sections, some of them are simpler and some are more complex. Online learning makes it possible for the teacher to focus on more complex sections of the subject, leaving the simpler fragments for self-study;

• educational process automation, the teacher does not need to develop lots of similar types of tasks for the test and check its results: the system will pick up any parameters at the teacher`s request, check and save the results in the teacher's log;

• Besides textual and graphical information, online learning makes it possible to use all the means of multimedia in the course of learning: animation, video, audio, and color. This provides a visual expression of the teaching material and engages most of the mechanisms of student perception of new information

• e-learning technologies are fit with the mentality of modern youth, for whom the Internet turned out to be a 'second reality';

• confident usage of modern infocommunication technologies is one of the vital competencies of today`s graduate. Online training makes it possible to dramatically increase the overall computer literacy of a student;

• a wide range and scale of the information provided, access to global information resources together form a student`s appropriate direction of thinking. Online learning provides many opportunities for self-study, contributing to the formation of skills of self-organization and study time management.

However, online technologies, like any other advancement, have certain disadvantages. They are based on the understanding of conventional education as

an interdependent process of teaching and mentoring: e-learning cannot replace direct teacher-student communication. Online learning itself is impersonal. Extensively automating the learning process, it is unable to take into account the individual cognitive and personality features. Purely 'digital' logic, consistently implemented in online learning falls short compared to human logic of events analysis and decision making. Usually, the right decisions in life are made only taking into account emotional and ethical considerations, which cannot be programmed. And one last thing. The mass introduction of the Internet into everyday life is definitely the blessings of civilization. However, even today, just at the very beginning of the development of humanity, the associated risks appear. Many youths tend to consider online life as a second reality, which in some cases turns into a first reality. There is a risk of appearing of an 'online generation' with simple mechanical thinking and remote from real life. Inadequate use of e-learning can promote the development of these negative trends.

It is clear that the above does not mean rejection of the full and large-scale implementation of online technologies. Beyond all doubt, they are up-to-date and necessary. The point is to not let online learning replace conventional teaching, but rather integrate it into it. The part of the online component in education should rise as the level of education increases, in the following sequence: school – higher educational institution - enhanced training. Thus, in school, when a student is actively developing, the teacher's personality and direct communication with him/her is crucial and it is better to use online learning partially. On the contrary, enhanced training, which is chosen by adults, can be purely pragmatic and implemented on an online platform only. From this perspective, higher education is in the middle and supposes the widespread use of online platforms integrated into a conventional 'teacher-student' learning approach.

Online learning is near-perfect for the organization of both distance (part-time) education and the educational process in the branches of the higher educational institution. However, the best results are achieved by so-called blended learning. In such a case, the conventional 'teacher-student' learning approach is enhanced by online learning technologies. A traditional lesson tends to consume much of the teacher's time and effort to simply pass on new information to students. Online learning makes it possible to shift this feature off to a computer and focus on discussing more serious matters of the course, answering students' questions, etc.

Online learning is not about to replace the conventional 'teacher-student' learning approach, but rather to integrate effectively into it. It is obvious that well-organized blended learning is able to provide the highest quality education. In such a case, the teaching materials of the course can be mainly presented by electronic means, while during face-to-face meetings the teacher can focus on student issues, on explaining serious matters, on holding discussions, i.e. to activate the learning process. Online means of education provide new opportunities for more active engagement of students in the process of education.

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