E-LEARNING FACETS AND APPROACHES

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ABSTRACT

This paper comments with the facet of e-learning Illuminates the idea about its objects and advantages. Ventilates the merits and demerits of e-learning understand different types of e-learning. Traditional e-learning and Rapid e-learning are manifested. Identify what types of course are best suited for each type of e-learning and the skills needed to create each type of e-learning. Asynchronous rapid e-learning and synchronous rapid e-learning are discussed in detail. E-learning overcomes timing, attendance and travel difficulties.

Key words: E-learning, Rapid e-learning, Traditional e-learning, Asynchronous, Synchronous, Distributed leaning, Virtual learning
Introduction

Education is one of the fastest growing economic and social sectors in the world, and use of new technologies is an integral and driving component of that growth. E-learning uses technologies using computer since education is a word for applications that incorporate multimedia with educational objects.

E-learning - its purport

E-learning means delivery of a learning, training, or education program by electronic means. E-learning involves the use of a counter or electronic devices in some way to provide training, educations or learning material.

E-learning can involve a greater variety of equipment than online training or education, for as the name implies, “online” involves using the internet or an internet CDROM and DVD can be used to provide learning materials.

Distance education provided the base for e-learning’s development. E-learning can be “on demand”. It overcomes timing, attendance and travel difficulties.

Online learning allows for flexibility of access, from anywhere and usually at any time, it allows participants to collapse time and space, the learning materials must be designed properly to engage the learner and promote learning.

Online learning has been termed different terminologies. Terms that are commonly used include:

- E-learning
- Internet learning
• Distributed learning
• Networked learning
• Tele learning
• Virtual learning
• Computer assisted learning
• Web-based learning and Distance learning

All of these appellations imply that learner is at a distance from the tutor or instructor, that the learner uses some from of technology is usually a computer, to access the learning materials, that the learner uses technology interact with tutor or instructor and other learners, and that some form of support is provided to learners.

Different authors are defining the e-learning in different ways. E-learning is an educational material that is presented on computer. Another definition for e-learning is an innovative approach for delivering instruction to a remote audience, using the web as the medium. Anyhow e-learning involves more than just the presentation and delivery of the materials using the web the learner and the learning process should be focus of e-learning. As a result, an author defines e-learning as the use of internet to access learning materials; to interact with the content, instructor and other learners; and to obtain support during the learning process, in order to acquire knowledge, to construct personal meaning, and the grow from the learning experience.
E-learning Facets

- Understanding different types of e-learning
- Identify what types of courses are best suited for each type of e-learning
- Identify the skills needed to create each type of e-learning
- Be able to match up your needs with the most effective types of e-learning for your situation.

Advantage of e-learning

- Educational institutions are moving toward the use of the internet for delivery, both on campus and at a distance

- For learners, e-learning knows no time zones, and location and distance

- In asynchronous e-learning, students can access the online materials at anytime, while synchronous e-learning allows for real time interaction between students and the instructor

- Learners can use the internet to access up-to-date and relevant learning materials and can communicate with experts in the field in which they are studying
• Situated learning is facilitated, since learners can complete e-learning courses while working on job or their own business and can contextualize the learning.

• For the instructor tutoring can be done at anytime and from anywhere

• E-learning materials can be updated and learners are able to see the changes at once.

• When learners are able to access materials on the internet it is easier for instructor to direct them to appropriate information based on their needs.

• E-learning systems it designed properly can be used to determine learners needs and current level of expertise and to assign appropriate materials for learners to select from to achieve the desired learning outcomes.

Knowing e-learning advantages and disadvantages helps with learning software selection as well as online distance learning programs structure and selection. It is important to know the merits and demerits of e-learning to make a decision.

**Merits of e-learning**

• Class work can be scheduled persona and professional work

• Reduces travel cost and time to and from school
• Learners may have the option to select learning materials that meets their level of knowledge and interest

• Learners can study where they have access to a computer and internet

• Self-paced learning modules allow learners to work at their own pace

• Flexibility to join discussions in the bulletin board threaded discussion areas at any hour, or visit with classmates and instructions remotely in chat rooms.

• Different learning styles are addressed and facilitation of learning occurs through varied activities.

• Development of computer and internet skills that are transferable to other facets of learner’s lives

• Successfully completing online or computer based courses builds self knowledge and self confidence and encourages students to take responsibility for their learning

Demerits of e-learning

• Unmotivated learners or those with poor study habits may fall behind

• Lack of familiar structure and routine may take getting used to

• Students may feel isolated or miss social interaction
• Instructor may not always available on demand

• Slow or unreliable internet connections can be frustrating

• Managing learning software can involve a learning curve

• Some courses such as traditional hand-on courses can be difficult to simulate.

Types of e-learning

The following figure indicates different types of e-learning

Practically there are different ways to present e-learning. We can simplify our course creation process by identifying up front the best way to present our material.
Traditional e-learning highly produced web course

Rapid e-learning quickly produced web course

Asynchronous rapid e-learning - student directed self paced learning

Synchronous e-learning - set time (phone/Internet Class room session)

There are not specific types that should choose between traditional e-learning and rapid e-learning. Rather some projects are best suited for rapid e-learning while other projects are best suited for traditional e-learning.

The progressive table is comparing rapid e-learning to Traditional e-learning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rapid e-learning</th>
<th>Traditional e-learning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content rapidly changes or is updated frequently</td>
<td>Content is fiscal or rarely changes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content may or may not be generic or have a short shelf life</td>
<td>Content is generic or has a long self life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited or non-existent budget</td>
<td>Large budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just in time information hot-topic</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quick time for delivery</td>
<td>Long lead time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Re-purpose existing content | Original content
--- | ---
Any subject that can be explained in words | Subjects that needs simulations or 3D models

**Conclusion**

In the development of distance education, e-learning is playing an important role with online, internet, web based learning. The students of e-learning acquire close contact with teachers, tutors, instructors and colleagues and procure updated study materials and information through e-learning. The quick time for delivery makes the clients to obtain subjects that needs simulation. The development of e-learning in future will be a boon to distance education.

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