

Poster presentation

Developing effective digitally-enhanced blended learning environments: A comparative study of Australian universities

Philip Uys, Janet Buchan, Linda Ward
Charles Sturt University

Blended learning has become a prominent trend in university learning and teaching. This raises various questions for traditional distance as well as face-to-face universities internationally and in particular in Australia. A key area where many issues arise is the development process to create effective digitally-enhanced learning environments within a blended learning milieu. A comparative study of Australian Universities has been conducted in 2006 to identify factors in the development of learning materials and environments that support effective blended learning that is digitally enhanced. The prominent team-approach for the development of learning materials (Bates, 1993; DEC working party, 1989; Garrison, 1989; Holmberg, 1995) has been one of the foci of the study. Innovative approaches have been identified in learning material development that could benefit both Australian and international universities that are pursuing blended learning which is digitally enhanced.

Keywords: blended learning, instructional design, higher education, collaborative learning

References

- Bates, A.W. (1993). Theory and practice in the use of technology in distance education. In Keegan, D. (Ed.), *Theoretical principles of distance education*, (pp. 213-233). London: Routledge.
- DEC Working Party (1991). *Distance education discussion and direction papers*. Monash University College Gippsland: Churchill. In Evans, T. & Nation, D. (1993). *Reforming open and distance education. Critical reflections*. London: Kogan Page.
- Garrison, D.R. (1989). *Understanding distance education. A framework for the future*. London & New York: Routledge.

Author contact details

Philip Uys, Centre for Enhancing Learning and Teaching (CELT), Charles Sturt University, Panorama Avenue, Bathurst, NSW 2795, Australia. Phone: +61 (0)2 6338 4538. Fax: +61 (0)2 6338 4342. Email: puys@csu.edu.au.

Copyright © 2006 Uys, P., Buchan, J., Ward, L.

The author(s) assign to ascilite and educational non-profit institutions a non-exclusive licence to use this document for personal use and in courses of instruction provided that the article is used in full and this copyright statement is reproduced. The author(s) also grant a non-exclusive licence to ascilite to publish this document on the ascilite web site (including any mirror or archival sites that may be developed) and in electronic and printed form within the *ascilite Conference Proceedings*. Any other usage is prohibited without the express permission of the author(s). For the appropriate way of citing this article, please see the frontmatter of the *Conference Proceedings*.