

E-Learning, Library and Information Services

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Abstract

E-learning as an advanced system for learning through ICT is an engine of innovation in education. The present paper covers what is e-learning, need for e-learning, technological tool used for e-learning etc. Designing aspects of e-learning will also be covered. As we have living in the era of IT, it has entered the library and information profession also. Areas of library and information profession, which is influenced or brought revolutionary changes with the impact of e-learning are also mentioned. The author has tried to show the key benefits of e-learning for prosperity and growth. The different key issues involved in e-learning are also properly highlighted in the current paper. E-Learning is not unlike any other form of education - and it is widely accepted that E-Learning can be as rich and as valuable as the classroom experience or even more so.

KEYWORDS: E-education, E-learning, Information & Communication Technology (ICT), Library Services, Information Technology, Distance Learning.

1. INTRODUCTION

E-learning is now the global scenario & it should not be avoided. Technology has dominated all spheres of life. The education is also one of the fields where we can see the impact of information technology. Education and library is twin sister. Over several years the education process has seen drastic changes in imparting knowledge. During the last few years it has been seen, an almost exponential development and growth of the digitalization and the Internet, with little sign of a slow down. No longer is Internet access restricted to a few selected education establishment it is now available to anyone in their place of work, local libraries, the internet cited and even in the information that has becomes the key to the success in different walks of life. The most recent influence of ICT in the field of education is e-learning.

E-learning has emerged as the most important method of education and brought new opportunities to education in all subjects including Library & Information Science [LIS]. E-learning is becoming an influential force in higher education today; a force, which has some kind of presence on almost every campus and in an ever-increasing number of college and university courses. It is a growing and dynamic environment, one in which fluidity and change is the norm culturally, institutionally and technically. Within this environment, the academic library is still searching for a permanent, comfortable and serviceable position that is nimble enough to be flexible, accessible and continually up-to-date with the wider university structure.

2. OBJECTIVES

- ◆ To find out impact of e-learning on LIS professionals.
- ◆ To find out impact of e-learning on LIS Services.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is based on secondary data derived from various published sources. The required data is collected from various links of E-Learning i.e. DESSIDOC Journal, University News, ILA Bulletin etc...

4. E-EDUCATION

The term e-education means electronic and it is basically the online delivery of information communication, training and learning, E-education seems to have a multiplication of definitions to each of its users and the term seems to mean something different. A very comprehensive definitions has been given by the Cisco system, which defines E-education is Internet-enabled learning, components can include content delivery in multiple format E-education provides faster learning at reduced costs, increased acces to learning and clear accountability for all participants in the learning process in today's fast- paced culture, organizations that implement

5. E-LEARNING

E-learning refers to learning facilitated and supported by the application of ICT. It is a process of education using computers, telecommunication, networks and storage technology. E-learning is the use of network technologies to create, foster, deliver and facilitate learning anytime and any where without any geographical barriers.

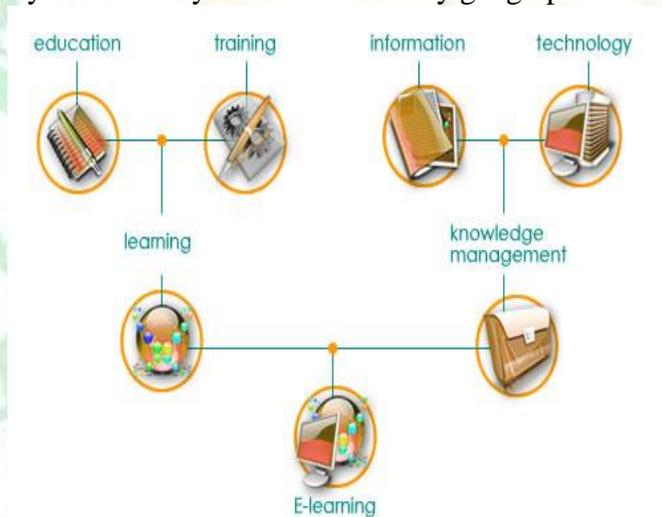


Figure No. 5.1 what is E-learning

6. WHY E-LEARNING?

- ◆ Learning is self paced and gives students a chance to speed up to slow down necessary
- ◆ Learning is self-directed, allowing students to choose content and appropriate to their differing interests, need and skills levels

- ◆ Accommodates multiple learning styles using as variety of delivery methods geared to different learners, more effective for entrain learners
- ◆ Designed around the learner
- ◆ Accessibility makes scheduling easy and allows a greater number of people to attend classes on demand access means learning can happen precisely when needed travel-time is reduced or eliminated
- ◆ Overall students costs are frequently less (tuition, residence, food)
- ◆ Potentially lower costs for companies needing training and for the providers
- ◆ Fasters greeters students interaction and collaboration
- ◆ Fasters greater student/instructor contact
- ◆ Enhance computer and internet skills
- ◆ Has the attention of every major university in the work, most with their own online degrees, certificate and individual course.

7. **CHARACTERISTICS**

- ◆ Any time learning facility: It is truly 24x7 learning system.
- ◆ Anywhere learning: E-learning allows learning activity from either office or home or anywhere. It provides remote access facility.
- ◆ Remote Learner Teacher: In the e-learning environment teacher and learner can be away from each other yet achieving the common goal of education by the means of ICT application.
- ◆ Learner Centered: It is very much dependent on the learner's own choice; here the learner has the facility to choose his / her learning module.
- ◆ Lifelong Learning: The learners will have the flexibility to learn and finish the programme at their own pace also.
- ◆ Multimedia Nature: The course contents are available in electronic format, such as it can be text, audio or video form.

8. CATEGORIES OF E-LEARNING

1. Courses
2. Informal learning
3. Blended learning
4. Communities
5. Knowledge management
6. Networked learning
7. Work-based learning (EPSS)

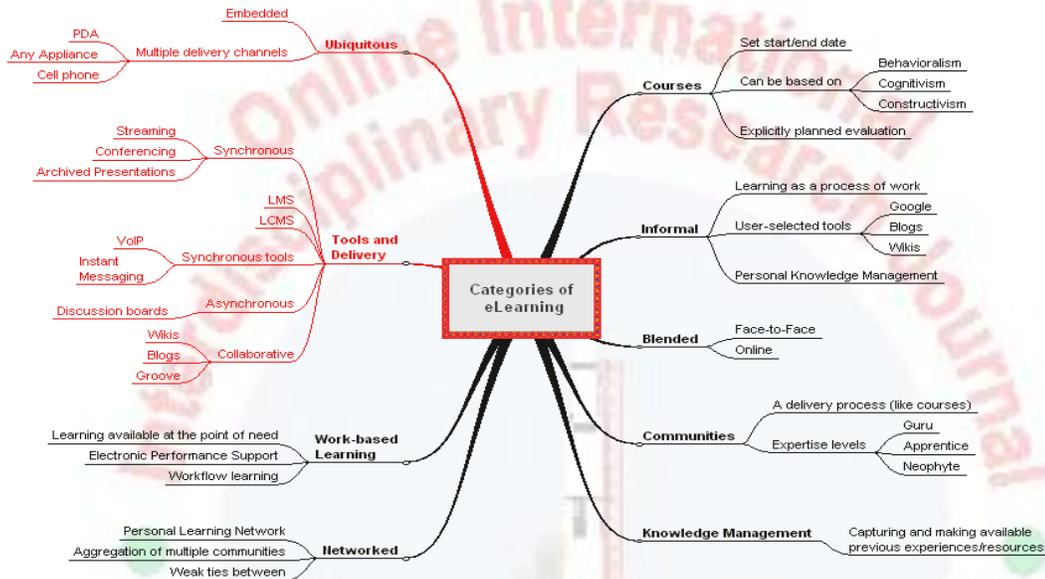


Figure No. 8.1 Categories of E-learning?

These various learning categories do not need to function in isolation. A complex learning implementation will certainly incorporate different facets of e-learning. During course design, learning resources can be tagged and made available for later use in work-based learning. The knowledge management system can be integrated with (and update) courses.

9. STRATEGIES FOR DEVELOPING E-LEARNING INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

There should be a more holistic approach is required in the development of e-learning within the institution. While there are significant technical challenges to be addressed, the major institutional impediments are cultural and historical in nature. Leadership and visions are needed to make e-learning a satisfying and cost-effective teaching strategy. In more practical terms there is a need for top-down and bottom-up strategies together with short term and long-term strategic initiatives. Given the present policy vacuum in many institutions with regard to e-learning, the library community has a major opportunity to articulate its requirements in the e-learning space. In the short term, with the judicious use of existing collaborative mechanisms, it is possible for libraries to make significant progress in integrating and exposing library services in course management systems and learning activities.

There are no quick solutions for addressing this complex issue, but opportunities exist for the library both within institutions and within collaborative frameworks to contribute to the building of infrastructure for digital asset management. It is highly likely that there will be multiple repositories within any one institution, which will require metadata schema and federated searching services to ensure specified levels of interoperability. It is also likely that the institutional repository infrastructure will need to interact with repositories in other institutions; therefore, there will be a requirement to offer services that support a distributed network of repositories across various

functional and disciplinary domains. In other words, there is a need for conceptual and technical infrastructures that allow the library to offer pertinent services. At the same time the library should be well positioned to update services as new opportunities and viable alternatives present themselves.

10. DESIGNING ASPECTS OF E-LEARNING

Linking analyzing and synthesizing at a conceptual level helps to facilitate learning, and to capture and manage the knowledge that results from learning. Relationship requires interaction, including both intellectual and personal relationships. And strategy requires a synthesis of information about procedures and context, and the experience and knowledge against measure and evaluates them, knowledge includes content, context, and relationships that learning required exploration, and links at the conceptual level, as well as personal an intellectual interaction, and the ability to manage information about procedures and contexts against the template of experience.

10.1 Creation of Course Modules

The quality of the e-learning experience follows from the quality of the course modules and of the interactions among students and instructors that make up on-line courses. The faculty members, students and instructional staff who design and produce on-line courses modules need access to powerful, easy-to-use authoring tools & reliable strategies. Responsibility for this element is distributed among all levels of the university, from individual employees & students to departments, colleges, and central university support facilities.

10.2 Management of Course Modules

Innovative databases management practices are required to facilitate efficient revision and re-purposing of courses modules and to faster sharing of modules among course authors and programs. Responsibility for this element is shared among departments, colleges, and central university support facilities.

10.3 Delivery of Courses

At the core of the common-learning environment is a delivery system that makes course modules available on-line, mediates instructions between instruction and students, and helps the university to efficiently manage students' records.

10.4 Delivery of Support Services

All Penn state students-on campus or off- deserves access to technical support, library resources, advising services, and other key aspects of the university experience. A common e-learning environment will help facilitate this access. Primary responsibility for this element resides with central university support facilities.

11. TOOLS FOR E-LEARNING

E-learning includes the web based teaching materials, multimedia, CD-ROM, websites, blogs, digital library, virtual library, VRML, HTTP, CGI, VSAT, ISDN, LAN, MAN, WAN, e-mails, wikis, text chat, games, educational animation, simulations & HTML etc.



Figure No. 11.1 Various Tools of E-learning

12. DIFFERENT MODES OF E-LEARNING

At present the online courses can be offered in following modes:

- ◆ Online mode
- ◆ E- correspondence mode Underline, mode, the learners are entitled to the following benefits:
 - ◆ Access to virtual classroom in the website for collaborative learning experience via a host of interactive tools including chat, discussion forum, electronic white board and e-mail.
 - ◆ Semester wise interactive courseware CD
 - ◆ Optional short duration contact program in each semester
 - ◆ Facility top order the courseware books (optional)
 - ◆ Facility to create a personal web page.

13. E-LEARNING & LIS

Libraries play a vital role in education. The library is a hub of any institute or organization. In the present age of information highway, e-learning opens a new hope & aspiration in LIS education, services & profession. E-learning is the fusion of technology with education. E-learning is a combination of content & instructional methods delivered via a computer & designed to build knowledge & skills.

Electronic era is pushing libraries towards the digital environment. The traditional LIS education provides a strong knowledge base to the potential professional. It develops in him the most basic library management skill cataloguing, classification, indexing or in a broad sense we can say it as knowledge organization skills. In the present age, e-learning is the fusion of technology with education. ICT applications have helped libraries in terms of space, time & cost. It also applied in the library today to manage various housekeeping activities of the library & thus minimize the repetitive works. Some of the reasons why LIS education should go for e-learning

- ◆ Availability of adequate infrastructure
- ◆ Government incentives to promote e-learning are available
- ◆ Wide geographic dispersion of LIS employees due to globalization
- ◆ E-learning adds value to learning system by delivering digital course material. It brings much flexibility to the learner.

14. IMPACT OF E-LEARNING ON LIS SERVICES

In the every walk of our day-to-day life we are finding the use of technologies and libraries are not exception for that. The single force that has brought revolutionary changes in functioning of libraries is IT. The introduction and application of these modern means have evaluated and modern

day library to a very high pedestal, improving and altering its image, functions and services to revolutionary extant and with great efficiency and effectiveness.

Computers can be used in performing most of the repetitive works of library in a desired number of times speedily and economically without fatigue and vantage of time. Most of the operations with library are inter-related, inter dependent and mutually supportive for the overall mission of library. Use of IT applications to interface and integrate each function with the other saves lot of staff time as the same data used not to be entered at every stage. E-learning has brought many changes in Library Activities and Services. There are four broader areas of which E-learning has brought many changes;

14.1 Library Automation

Automation has helped libraries improving library operations and accelerating their working. Now the computers are being used in the areas like of acquisition, technical processing, circulation control and serial control.

The computer acquisition system has eased the burden for reorder checking of duplicate purchase orders and follow-up action can also take automatically. IT has speed up the accession, processing work by elimination a large amount of repetitive and time – time consuming work Machine-readable cataloguing is easy to manipulate as it can be searched on-line and from which varies of outputs are available. On-line bibliographic databases have significant effect on collection development.

The lengthy and time consumable procedures of conventional circulation system are taken by the technological devices like computers, barcode scanners and its software's helps in performing these operations quickly and thus saving the time of users and staff. IT helps in charging and discharging of document, reservation of documents, sending reminders, and collection of overdue, maintenance of various records.

14.2 Information Storage and Retrieval

After quit accusation and processing of documents through computerized systems, the focus is to retrieve and disseminate the required information. On line information retrieval is one of the speediest and the most effective menace of getting the required information. The main advantages of using online information retrieval are;

- ❖ Specific requires with reference to information requirement can be great speed.
- ❖ A large volume of information an be searched rapidly and accurately
- ❖ It s possible to search databases to witch the library information center does not subscribe.
- ❖ Many searches easily done on online would be extremely difficult to do manually.
- ❖ One can search and get the required information online in a matter of minutes what take perhaps many hours or days by the manual method.

14.3 Office Automation

Computers in the form of word processors can be effectively for office automation. Word processor makes typing, storage and editing jobs easier. Electronic mailing can reduce lot of office work.

The applications of computers in the library also enable to reduce time wasted on non-productive routine work and to improve the quality of the work. Every library and information center now considers the speed and efficiency as a major criterion of better functioning of its information retrieval system for fast dissemination of information to its Users.

14.4 Resources Sharing Networks

The libraries are also using computers for resource sharing. It can be a part of local library network or part of large joint program, now widely known as 'Resource Sharing Networks'. The

systems enables the participating library to obtain material from each other's collection in the form of list of books, indexes and abstracts of required article, facsimile copies of required pages or documents, charts, figures, graphics, drawings by using computer terminals attached to a large or very units (VDUs) and attached with printing facility. Information can be scanned first on the screen, and if required, relevant information can be obtained in the print out form.

IT facilitates the library and information centers in providing the Literature search Services various information sources in print form within the library, outside the library or at national or international level, in a short time with accuracy. CAS and SDI services have become easy and it can be provided without causing any delay by using the new IT.

Thus IT is showing its impact on the time, accuracy, efficiency and effectiveness of the various library and information services. Due to advantages of IT devices, it has inevitable to adopt such technologies by the library and information centers.

15. APPLICATION OF E-LEARNING

E-learning programmes can be particularly useful in;

- ◆ Continuing LIS professional education & Staff development
- ◆ Lifelong learning
- ◆ Learning latest tools & technologies in information retrieval
- ◆ On the job training of library staff

16. BENEFITS OF E-LEARNING IN LIS ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ It saves the time & manpower.
- ◆ E-learning can empower learner as well as instructors. It makes the information workers more competent & confident in the use of IT.
- ◆ It provides the self learning environments to the learner. The students can go through the lesson at his / her own pace.
- ◆ Digital media provides a variety of contents & delivery vehicles for diverse nature of learners to meet the requirement.
- ◆ E-learning will enhance student learning opportunities by enabling them to take part in a global level & to access huge digital information resource through appropriate World Wide Web [WWW] technology.
- ◆ E-learning offers us less expensive, more convenient & richer ways of becoming educated. Through e-learning trainee can acquire multiple skills.

17. CONCLUSION

E-learning is not merely a new concept but also has grown as the World Wide Web [WWW] has developed in each and every country and spreading its roots for Indian environment as well. Education and community are effectively being re-engineered. Though the IT is dominated our all fields of life, but it can't surpass the traditional system of education and learning. It can be a part of the existing educational system, particularly in the country like India. Some standards have to be developed in reading material, infrastructure facilities, suitable for the Indian conditions so that the growth of e-learning can be made much faster. LIS is vitally important for development. This is the time to think intensely about the changing condition of LIS education.

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