



ACADEMIC LIBRARIES AND E-LEARNING: AN OVERVIEW

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Abstract:

The Academic environment is also changing from formal education to distance Learning and online Learning mode because of ICT. E- Learning is more popular day by day. The academic Institute's educational System is changing and in such Case Academic Libraries have to change their practices to suit the need of e-Learning. E-Learning gives new dimensions to higher education and as well as other area of education. This paper highlights the basic concept of e-Learning, Objectives of E-Learning advantages, dis advantages, tools for e- learning and also further discuss about the participation of academic Libraries in the eLearning. This Paper the impact of E-Learning over the academic Libraries and the challenges faced by the Libraries.

Key words: Academic Libraries, E-Learning, ICT's.

Introduction:

E-Learning is becoming an increasingly important part of education these days. It is the paramount importance for the professionals to provide the most viable combinations of knowledge sources that will keep their capital their employee/ worker base the most competitive possible. The scope of such learning to unpleasantly very broad, the

Introduction of new technologies like, e-learning into Indian scenario is ready to create many challenges, including skills, financing, capacity and many other. E-Learning is a very good technology provided by the present day technology advancement and innovations, Indian students are taking help from teachers sitting abroad in this a student from a remote

area of country can complete his/her education from Capital New Delhi.

E-Learning is a new concept of virtual learning, virtual learning room, and web based education leading to establishment of virtual University with a view of extend educational opportunities for all, anywhere and at any time. Today all the information is available in electronically/digital format. Education system is faced problems such as trained and experienced teachers, lack of infrastructure and need of quality education. E-Learning could solve the problems. The future education is totally based on e-learning. E-learning (electronic learning), a wide set of applications and processes such as Web-based learning, computer-based learning, virtual classrooms and digital collaboration. It includes the delivery of content via internet, extranet (LAN/WAN), audio and videotape, satellite broadcast, interactive TV, CD-ROM and more.

E-learning makes learning interesting, interactive and fun! It has right the right blend of content (instruction) and cutting-edge technologies that offer the best benefits. It is also called as Online Education, Online Learning, Internet education, Computer-Based Training (CBT), Computer-Assisted Instruction, Virtual Education, Cyber Learning, Asynchronous Learning Networks (ALN), Web Based Training (WBT) or Learning Management Systems (LMS) etc.

Meaning of E-Learning:

New Zealand's Minister of Education defines e-learning as, "Learning that is enabled or supported by the use of digital tools and content. It typically involves some form of interactivity, which may include online interaction between the learner and their teacher

or peers. E-learning opportunities are usually accessed via internet, through other technologies as CD-ROM are also used". E-Learning is a term that covers many approaches, which have in common the use of ICT.

E-learning is a technique of delivering educational content through Digital Interactive Television, Video-conferencing, audioconferencing, Internet-Intranet, Worldwide Web, Video/Audio tapes, Video-on-demand, CD-ROM etc. Broadly speaking E-learning is of two types, Synchronous E-learning and Asynchronous E-learning.

Synchronous E-Learning:

Synchronous E-Learning establishes contact between instructors and students at the real time. Example of synchronous Learning are live radio/live interactive television broadcasting videoconferencing, teleconferencing, chatting, on-line seminar etc.

Asynchronous E-learning:

Asynchronous E-learning doesn't establish contact between instructor's students at the real time. Example includes extraction of knowledge through CD or DVD or video or audio tapes or through web pages. Correspondence through E-mail falls under this category.

Objectives of E-Learning: The following are the objectives of E-learning: • All Students and teachers will have access to information technology in their classrooms, schools, communications, and homes; • All teachers will use technology effectively to help students achieve high academic standards; • All students will have technology and information literacy skills. • Research and evaluation will improve the next generation of technology applications for teaching and learning; • Digital content and networked applications will transform teaching and learning; and • Distance education provided the base for E-learning's development.

Advantages of E-Learning:

• E-learning provides opportunity both formal and informal learning communities; • Learning resources can be relatively easily developed using a variety of standard packages, hence more compact and durable; • In E-Learning, one can make use of and link into, other relevant resources available on the Internet;

• E-Learning provides flexible delivery of content material over Internet for 24x7 hours; • Online delivery of reading materials is relatively cheap, as there are no printing and distribution costs; • E-learning enables both one to-one and one-to-many combinations; • Higher maintenance of content through personalized learning; • Improved collaboration and interactivity among students. Teaching and communication techniques create an interactive online environment;

Disadvantages of E-Learning:

E-Learning has many disadvantages over the other methods of learning. Some of these are • Lack of face to face conversation; • Maintenance also very costly; • Information and communication infrastructure is required which is capital intensive; • Special e-learning is required to know and operate computer/Internet etc; • E-working is power dependent; • Technology is changing at a faster rate and its incorporation in the system is not that easy and it is costly at the same time;

Types of E-Learning:

• Virtual Classrooms:

The intention of virtual classrooms is to extend the structure and service that accompany formal education programs from the campus to learners. Normal classroom are for those who may be perusing a distance education program made up entirely of online lessons. Rapid E-learning: uses tools such as Adobe Captivate and Adobe Presenter to reduce the time it takes to produce rich, engaging FLV learning content, while allowing more non-technical contributors.

• Online Learning:

Learning management systems are serving as the basis for building online programs where the learning is entirely through digital mode.

• Mobile Learning:

It takes advantage of place independent flexibility that comes from working away from the PC; it provides the opportunity to connect informal learning experiences that occur naturally throughout the day with formal learning, such as in the virtual class model using interesting programmes or online learning. Performance support systems: is simple and straight forward or much immersive, depending on need and critically of performance.

- Challenges of E-Learning:

Determination of nature and extent of information-availability of Internet and its effective use- Use of incorporated information effectively –Access needed information effectively –Use of information ethically and legally –legal and social issues associated with the surrounding of the information.

- Corporate E-Learning:

Corporate are using e-learning as means of communicating, training and enhancing employee value across the organization and countries, holding seminars, workshops or conferences detract employees from their work and results of such practices are at the

best weak, being able to instruct employees with the job through e-learning, can prove to be extremely valuable to any business.

- Tools of E-Learning:

There are the some following tools uses for e-learning:

- Web Blog

A blog short for web log is a user-generated website where entries are made in journal style and displayed in a reverse chronological order. The term ‘blog’ is a mingling of the words web and log. It provides comments or news on a particular subject, online diaries.

- Social Bookmaking

Social bookmaking is a web-based service to share internet bookmarks. The social bookmaking sites are a popular way to store, classify, share and search links.

- Wiki

A wiki is a website that allows visitors to add, remove, edit and change content, without the need for registration. It also allows for linking among any number of pages. This ease of interaction and operation makes a wiki an effective tool for mass collaborative authoring.

- RSS (Really Simple Syndication)

RSS is a web feed formats used to publish frequency updated digital content, such as blogs, news feeds and or podcasts, podcasts etc.

- Podcasting

Podcasting is a fusion of two words i.e.iPod, Apple popular digital music player and broadcasting. Podcasting are basically

digital audio programs that can be subscribed to and downloaded by listeners by RSS. It can be

assesses on an array of digital audio devices like Mp3 players, desktop computer, laptops, mobile etc.

- Instant Messaging

An Instant Messaging application allows one to communicate with another person over a network in relative privacy. There are many options like Gtalk, Sgype, Meetro, ICQ, Yahoo Messenger, MSN Messenger and AOL for instant messaging.

- Text Chat

Internet Relay Chat (IRC) and other online chat technologies allow users to join chat rooms and communicate with many people at one, publicly. This facilities both one-to-one communication and many to-many interaction.

- Internet Forums

Originally modeled after the real-world paradigm of electronic bulletin board of the world before internet was born, internet forums allow users to post a “topic” for others to review. Others users can view the topic and post their own comments in a linear fashion, one after the other. The above e-learning tools are a practical, inexpensive and uncomplicated method for learning online. They are available to one and all and are great propagating e-learning.

Academic Libraries and E-Learning

Academic libraries are considered to be the nerve centres of any academic Institution which support teaching, research and other academic programmes. Academic libraries will play an important role in

development and progress of any educational system. It provides the any information to their user and fulfill their requirement related their subject, interested area, learning, teaching and research. E-learning is gave great opportunities to libraries, to used the library resources and services in support of learning, research and outreach. E-learning is the change all the traditional way of teaching methods, it is offering virtual classrooms to a without geographical boundaries and countries, it is revolutionizing change in the educational system; it is also focusing on individual rather than a group. We can say that it is totally personally attention teaching methods. E-learning is transfer to the knowledge from one to many people or groups.

Academic libraries have facilities of digital and e-learning. They can apply used their ICT's infrastructure in support of elearning and e-research by access to electronic resources, online databases, online catalogues, e-books, e-journals, archives, digital libraries and electronic services.

The academic libraries provide these facilities to faculty, student in on/off campus. An academic library managing the services regarding e-learning, for this purpose academic libraries should establish an e-learning centre, which would support their academic curriculum with the help of faculty members and supporting staff. Academic libraries also support the elearning with their multimedia resources, which consist of audio, video, CD-ROM, microfilm, microfiche and DVD's. Emerging communications technologies nowadays provide an opportunity to academic

Libraries to contain these multimedia resources. These resources will enhance access to information where anytime and anywhere 24*7 service to student, faculty members.

Conclusion:

E-learning allows for efficient transfer of knowledge in real time process, while at the same time empowering learners with the information technology awareness and skills crucial to succeed in the present Knowledge Revolution Era. The E-learning and E-resources are dual source of nectar in information revolution in resource centers. The E-learning will be one of the hottest new technology areas within the next few years. learning educational centre and also play a vital role in e-learning education.

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