Book Review

Revolutionizing Modern Education Through Meaningful E-Learning Implementation

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Along with the rapid advancement of digital technologies, particularly the Internet, have exponentially increased modern people's access to information (Greene, Copeland, Deekens & Seung, 2018). In addition, the domains of learning and teaching are experiencing great changes during the information age. The concepts and practices of e-learning have further facilitated the wide adoption of learner-centered education and other changes in educational practices. E-learning has drawn significant attention from educational institutions due to a variety of benefits. Such benefits are reduced education cost, consistency, timely content, flexible accessibility, and convenience (Cantoni, Cellario, & Porta, 2004; Hung, et al, 2010; Kelly & Bauer, 2004; Poole, 2000). This book uses the term e-learning which is used to represent all open and distributed learning activities.

This book seeks to provide readers with a broad understanding of e-learning framework in open and distributed learning environments and the dimensions that directly influence their effectiveness and E-adoption. In fact, the adoption of e-learning, designing open and distributed learning systems for globally diverse learners is quite a challenging work; however, more and more institutions offer flexible learning to students worldwide. People become more knowledgeable about what works and what does not work.

This book is organized logically as well. In addition to the introductory chapter by Dr. Khan and preface, there are 15 chapters, which cover three main sections. The first section, which is presented from Chapters 1 to 8, includes Educational Dimensions. These are pedagogical, ethical, and evaluation. The second sections, which are presented from Chapters 9 to 11, focus primarily on technology dimensions. These are technological and Interface design. The third sections, which are presented from Chapters 12 to 15, address management dimensions. These are institutional, management and resources support.

The chapters explore the comprehensive and critical dimensions which are inclusive of digital pedagogy, administrative models, technological advancements, user-interface design, and usability and many address the issues that have arisen around the use of massive open online courses (MOOCs) in their various flavors. It is worthy to understand the design, development, implementation, and

evaluation of MOOCs, research using the e-learning framework for evaluation is presented to aid in the better utilization of the resources offered by this new era of digital learning technology.

This book has many advantages. This is an edited book with many internationally-based authors, so the insights presented reflect both richness and diversity. The contributors offer a variety of points of view, presented through the lens of different versions of the e-learning framework, and these opinions may differ from one another on the same issues. It may be useful for different stakeholders from educational institutions, educational software developers, and business organizations, such as Instructors, Administrators, interface designers, agencies, and evaluators.

Since MOOCs are found to be next disruption for online education, we recommend a careful reading of chapter 7 to understand learners' perspective toward MOOCs. In this chapter, authors evaluate 20 courses in MOOC platforms by actively participating and experiencing the behaviors. The findings show that the lowest scoring courses focused largely on information transmission though long videos with little interaction and little evidence of instructor presence. The highest scoring courses were highly interactive and engaging with discussion, instructor feedback and assignments to keep student interest high. From above results in chapter 7, we characterized the need to belong as a desire for regular social contact with people to whom one feels connected; in this light, teachers might do well to establish and sustain students' sense of belongingness through the development of their interpersonal relationships and their sense of community, no matter in any of online learning environments.

This book has spurred discoveries of many applications in open and distributed learning environments and the adoption of e-learning. This book is well-designed, well-integrated, and well-written, and should be well-read as well. Thus, we recommend this book and it is worthy to read.

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