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DISTANCE LEARNING BASED ON ELECTRONIC EDUCATION NETWORKS

Specific features of distance learning in Ukraine and the newest telecommunication technologies in the modern information society are revealed in the article. The importance of using distance education network to get high quality education that meets the requirements of the XXI century is emphasized. The possibilities if distance learning and teacher's role in this process are revealed as well as requirements towards teacher's pedagogic activity in new context. The sample of the successful electronic education network Shodennik.ua («Щоденник.иа») is given. The network is protected from external users and offers wide range of materials for people involved in the education process (teachers, children and their parents).

Key Words: *distance learning, electronic educational resources, e-education network, on-line teacher.*

> *"Distance learning and broadband access to the world wide web of knowledge and information is the great equalizer. Maybe someday it will even move us towards world peace, environmental balance, and personal fulfillment." (Gordon P. Hanson, IT Management Consultant, DOA TEACH)*

Distance Learning

Distance learning is known to be used for more than two centuries, since XVIII to be exact. Students used to get letters containing education materials that were to be studied. Students were in correspondence with their teachers-tutors who helped them with studies. That education process was summarized in the exams. That kind of education became very popular. Thus even in the XXI century it is used by educational institutions as a kind of the communication with students.

"The earliest form of distance learning took place through correspondence courses in Europe. This was the accepted norm until the middle of this (the 20th) century, when instructional radio and television became popular." (Lorraine Sherry)

New communication technologies offer us a variety of means for distance learning others than an ordinary mail. Contemporary education influenced by mass media, especially TV and radio changes to great extent. Many educational institutions worldwide try to use new ways of sharing information with their students: make conferences, seminars etc.

Now we live in the third millennium! The onrush of technology and ultramodern devices make our life easier, a lot of things are made automatically. All of the mentioned is fair referring to education. Most of the students use personal computer and Internet which make education process easier. That is why Internet networks are very popular among students as they help to get distance learning and take all decisions about it. *Is it good or bad?* Let's go into details.

Advantages of Distance Learning.

First of all distance education is an individual one. Pupils can see all the material that is to be studied in the computer and then make a plan of the work. It is good for student's self-organization and independence.

Second, this kind of education can be of great use for many people as it requires no expenses for students' and teachers' daily travel to the educational institution. People who want to get a good distance education are "united" in the cohesive interaction space.

Third, it contributes to improving students' knowledge by means of the newest computer technologies, virtual libraries, e-registers, school time-tables, common working space, didactic games, Internet contests, video lessons and virtual tutors. There is no need in paper books because all of the materials needed are allocated and run at distance education resources. Those are manuals, text books, maps, diagrams, illustrations and additional literature etc.

It is very convenient for the schoolchildren and their parents as well. They can trace daily their child's records and academic progress as well as the topics covered. Do you agree that distance learning is effective? Let's keep discovering it.

Some distance education adversaries consider to be the problem if students have no possibility to work with teachers face-to-face without non-verbal communication (gestures, mimics etc.). Certainly we agree this is important. But new technologies make communication distance possible. It is realized by means of chat, forum, Internet seminar, Internet conference etc. And nowadays it is used worldwide.

Others consider education by means of Internet to be impossible because of no education base is created for this purpose. People are aware that Internet is immense and it contains enough education materials. The only thing needed is its systematization.

Distance education can be inefficient because of low level of computer literacy. The users aren't used to this kind of education and they have no guidelines as for it and the competence needed. That is why electronic education resources developers have to keep informing about the possibilities of distance education and contribute to computerization of educational institutions. Thus the system of distance education can become more effective.

On-line teacher?

Distance learning is effective in the case of well-run student-teacher cooperation only. And new technologies make it possible. Internet enables teachers to teach easy online. Just guess about the prospects of it! There is no need in looking for education materials; teacher can get in touch with students and their children. For ex., there is a possibility of sending home-tasks individually or to the whole group, or discussing the education process with colleagues etc. It can be done at any instant because electronic education resources work permanently.

Besides there is all the information needed (manuals, textbooks, supplementary resources) in one's computer and one can send a link to the necessary resource immediately. There is no need in printing training hand-outs because students can get those in the computer right after some buttons are pressed by the teacher sending it.

Those are innovation technologies! They make education process much easier and automatic to some degree. And naturally they raise the quality of education. Especially since children are used to work with computer and consider Internet to be inalienable in their life. Apparently in case if Internet and education are combined students' academic progress will be improving.

On-line teacher is up-to-date right now because it is evident that computer technologies develop quickly and the youth masters them immediately. Children can have Internet everywhere even in the mobile phone. This fact should be taken into consideration! And teachers are to be one step ahead of their students!

On-line teacher meets the requirements of the time!

Protection and interactivity

Education resources work similar to the most other social networks except for one specifics that they are closed for strangers. They are created for the people involved in the education process (teachers and school staff, pupils and their parents). They can communicate without external interruptions; there is anti-spam and antivirus protection. And there is a moderator. Thus education network users' protection is guaranteed.

Education networks enable using different materials from online libraries. Besides there is a possibility of communicating with others interested in education. Interactivity means the possibility of all the users' communication the way they feel comfortable. Education network is a living education space where many interesting events take place: forums, contests, tests, online

conferences, blogs etc. So users can have a great time when using the resource containing such a diversity of education content.

Are there any opportunities for distance e-learning in Ukraine?

Shodennik.ua («Щоденник.uа») is an electronic resource offering distance education in Ukraine. It is Ukrainian nationwide free education network that regulates relationship between teachers, pupils and their parents. The network is created based on the modern computer technologies offering the ways of making education easier and bringing it to the new level. It is aiming at creating a unique information and education Internet space for the people involved in learning teaching process and improving education.

2011 World Summit Award (http://www.wsis-award.org) recognized electronic platform Shodennik.ua to be the best in the world *("Electronic Education and Learning").*

Shodennik.ua is the only electronic interactive Internet resource created under the support of the Ministry of Education and Science, Youth and Sport of Ukraine (Orders № 1302 dated December 28, 2010 and № 302 dated April 01, 2011).

Advantages of Shodennik.ua:

− toll-free;
− interactivity;
− education audio and video materials, slide-films, diagrams etc.;
− contests, tasks for tests;
− huge library of education literature and fiction, online dictionaries;
− multimedia library;
− communication between teachers, pupils and their parents;
− online translator (over 20 languages);
− virtual tutorship;
− possibility of raising teacher's qualification;
− information for parents about their child's academic progress etc.

Shodennik.ua moves onward with the progress of the contemporary world, its computer and information technologies that make education process more interesting and motivating for learning.

Now You know that Ukrainian schoolchildren can use distance education. Its prospects are evident and it has a lot of advantages.

"The virtue of a computer in the classroom is that it requires a user, not a watcher." (Diane Ravitch)

Use computer technologies in Your education! The world is moving forward and we have to be in step with it!

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ДИСТАНЦІЙНЕ НАВЧАННЯ НА ОСНОВІ ЕЛЕКТРОННИХ ОСВІТНІХ МЕРЕЖ

У статті розглянуто особливості дистанційного навчання в Україні та роль новітніх телекомунікаційних технологій у сучасному інформаційному суспільстві. Автор наголошує на важливості використання дистанційного освітнього середовища для отримання якісної освіти, що відповідає вимогам XXI століття. Розкрито можливості дистанційного навчання, роль учителя у цьому процесі та вимоги до здійснення педагогічної діяльності в нових умовах. Автор наводить приклад успішного електронної освітньої мережі «Щоденник.ua», що є захищеною системою та пропонує широкі можливості українцям, які залучені до навчально-виховного процесу.

Ключові слова: дистанційне навчання, електронні освітні ресурси, електронна освітня мережа, он-лайн вчитель.

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ДИСТАНЦИОННОЕ ОБУЧЕНИЕ НА ОСНОВЕ ЭЛЕКТРОННЫХ ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНЫХ СЕТЕЙ

В статье рассматриваются особенности дистанционного обучения в Украине и роль новейших телекоммуникационных технологий в современном информационном обществе. Автор подчеркивает важность использования дистанционной образовательной среды для получения качественного образования, которое соответствует требованиям XXI века. Раскрыты возможности дистанционного обучения, роль учителя в этом процессе и требования к педагогической деятельности в новых условиях. Автор приводит пример успешного использования электронной образовательной сети «Щоденник.ua», которая являет собой защищенную систему и предлагает широкие возможности для украинцев для их учебно-воспитательного процесса.

Ключевые слова: дистанционное обучение, электронные образовательные ресурсы, электронная образовательная сеть.