Editorial: Web-Based Learning: Innovations and Challenges

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Abstract: This special issue of the Knowledge Management & E-Learning: an international journal(KM&EL) aims to stimulate interest in the web based issues in both teaching and learning, expose natural collaboration among the authors and readers, inform the larger research community of the interest and importance of this area and create a forum for evaluating innovations and challenges. We intend to bring together researchers and practitioners interested in developing and enhancing web-based learning environment. The objectives for this attempt are to provide a forum for discussion of ideas and techniques developed and used in web based learning. In addition the issue can also be used for educators and developers to discuss requirements for web-based education. Both theoretical papers and papers reporting implementation models, technology used and practical results are included in the issue.

Biographical notes: Mudasser F. Wyne Currently serving as a Professor of Computer Science at School of Engineering and Technology, National University, San Diego, USA. He is a co-lead faculty for BSc in Information Systems programs. Dr. Wyne has a Ph.D. in Computer Science, M.Sc. in Engineering and B.Sc., in Electrical Engineering. He has been in academics for 20+ years and supervised over 50 graduate and undergraduate projects. Dr. Wyne is with the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET), USA for more than 8 years and is currently serving as commissioner for Computing Accreditation Commission. In addition, he is a guest editor for a journal, associate editor and serving on editorial boards for four international journals. He has also served as Chair and Co-Chair of numerous conferences, workshops, tracks and panels, in addition to serving on the program committee for around 50 international conferences. Dr. Wyne has given invited talks on numerous occasions and published number of articles in peer reviewed international journals and peer reviewed international conferences.

1.   Introduction

This special issue of the Knowledge Management & E-Learning: an international journal(KM&EL) aims to stimulate interest in the web based issues in both teaching and learning, expose natural collaboration among the authors and readers, inform the larger research community of the interest and importance of this area and create a forum for evaluating innovations and challenges. We intend to bring together researchers and practitioners interested in developing and enhancing web-based learning environment.

The objectives for this attempt are to provide a forum for discussion of ideas and techniques developed and used in web based learning. In addition the issue can also be used for educators and developers to discuss requirements for web-based education. Both theoretical papers and papers reporting implementation models, technology used and practical results are included in the issue.

The call for contributions resulted in a large number of submitted research papers on a variety of topics, including Information quality, role of administrators, chat discussions, learning style and navigation behavior and digital application of web engineering. Mona Alkhattabi et al (2010) in their paper on "Information quality framework for e-learning systems" talk about a new information quality framework that provides a comprehensive indication of the quality of information. The framework measure the quality based on information quality attributes grouped in intrinsic, contextual representation and accessibility dimensions. The paper submitted by Yang (2010) talks about the challenges and new roles played by the administrators in maintaining the quality of online education. Another paper is by Chima Adiele et al (2010). Their paper talks about advances in information and communication technologies and present an interactivity model to measure level of interactivity of students in a class. The paper by Stanley Loh et al (2010) presents a system that analyzes the themes discussed in a chat room and then recommends information sources according to the context of discussion. Theme of discussion is identified by using text mining and recommendations are based on user profile. Nabila Bousbia et al (2010) in their paper present their research on establishing a relationship between the learner's navigation behavior and their learning style from the analysis of browsing behavior. In the next paper Ezendu Ariwa and Morris Michael (2010) discuss a challenge faced by the business community to promote and establish their business. Xun Ge et al (2010) in their paper present a qualitative study of the experiences of faculty members in transitioning from one learning management system to another system. In the last paper, Olaniran et al (2010) examine cross cultural challenges in implementing Web-based instruction, through a discussion of cultural dimensions, cultural technology perceptions, language barriers, and user needs.

Acknowledgements

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