

# How E-Learning Changing Our Academic/Research Practice?

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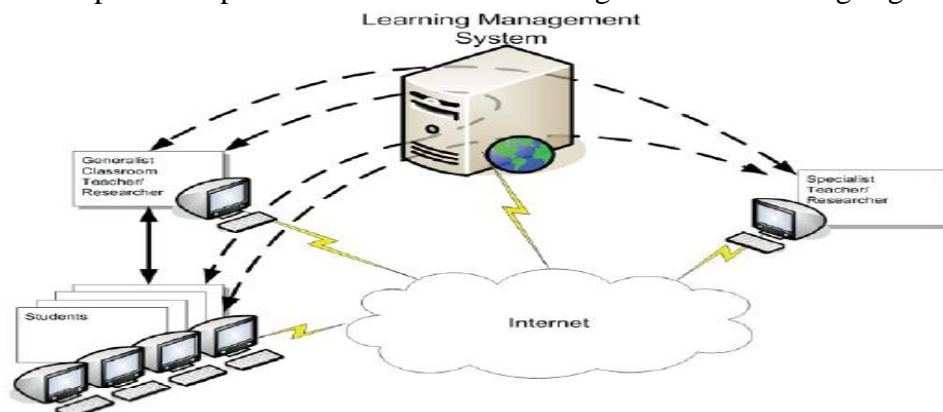
**ABSTRACT:-**The aim of this paper is to present some criteria and indicators of quality for the *e-learning* evaluation, based on the sociocultural perspective. It presents different approaches and models of quality evaluation for the virtual learning. It provides us why e-learning is gaining such prominence in our changing educational landscape. It tell us about many benefits of e-learning like it is accessible to people with disabilities as well as it is very flexible. It provides a quick overview of the services identified within the e-Learning activity. It provide a brief details about discovery and curating information through e-learning. Through e-Learning one can capture data and can also analysis data. E-learning provides online cooperation, dissemination and networking. The majority of e-learning tools are free. Many pros and cons of e-learning are also explained in this paper. Nowadays e-Learning is becoming an integral part of the learning tools by every educational organizations. So it will be beneficial to all the general masses to transform from simple learning system to e-learning. Hence, E-Learning bring the evolution in the current education learning system.

**Keywords:** - Curating information, Dissemination, E-Learning, Online collaboration, Networking

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The learning process needs skills and implements to present the knowledge (from different resources), interact with it and share it with others. In this framework, e-Learning is becoming an important tool to support the learning system to achieve its goals. E-Learning became popular topic in the 1900's after the extent of the Internet. Although it has a relative short history, it is becoming an important part of learning. The technology landscape is constantly changing – and new technological tools are continually developing. At the same time, education is moving away from a customary 'transmission' model, to one that promotes investigation and discovery. E-Learning, the transfer of skills and knowledge using Internet communication technologies, has a substantial part to play in this evolution – especially for techno-savvy 21st-century learners. The majority of the campuses adopted some kinds of e-Learning within its learning organization.



**Fig.1. How Communication Takes Place Through E-Learning**

E-Learning can be delivered and supported using a variety of electronic media, but is also the ideal match to a traditional education or teaching program delivery. These technologies are used to create and deliver personalized, ample, self-motivated learning content that enables learning, anytime and anywhere. It is also an ideal complement to a traditional education or training program. E-Learning is instruction that occurs when the mentor and the scholars are separated by time, distance, or both.

It can be divided into two major delivery models:

- *Synchronous Learning Model:-*  
Synchronous e-Learning or training model happens in real time with a mentor facilitating the training. Most commonly this type of learning may take place over the Internet using a variety of communication tools.
- *Asynchronous Learning Model:-*  
Asynchronous e-Learning model may be CD, DVD-ROM, Intranet, or Internet based. Scholars generally work on an interactive self-paced program of study.

We will not argue in our research about synchronous e-Learning. Anyway tools in synchronous e-Learning are already used and will be used as a part of e-Learning or beside it to support both traditional and open campuses. However, our research will not study tools of synchronous e-

Learning; rather it will focus on the asynchronous e-Learning which use internet-based side of the e-Learning solution.

But the interrogation is: Does e-Learning anticipate to substitute traditional learning method?

E-learning doesn't anticipate to substitute conventional learning methods such as classroom teaching. Its aim is to create an amplified learning environs where technology is used to provide a combined range of teaching modus operandi aimed at maximizing the individual's involvement in the process.

E-learning can be focused on different points of viewing referring to different kinds of learning and teaching as outlined in flowchart as shown below:-

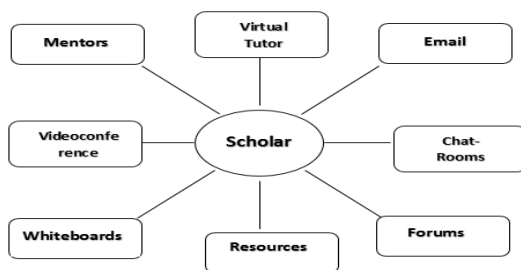


Fig.1. Scholar Based Training

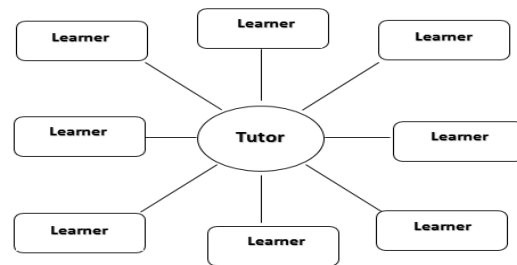


Fig.2. Tutor Based Training

## 2. Definitions

E-Learning, like many terms in the cyberspace, doesn't have the current definition which can be accepted by all. Its changes from one person to another i.e. not same for everyone.

We define E-Learning as: It is a term refers to any form of learning and teaching that is supported by electronic as well as multimedia technologies and the internet by facilitating resources and services as well as interchange of data and teamwork.

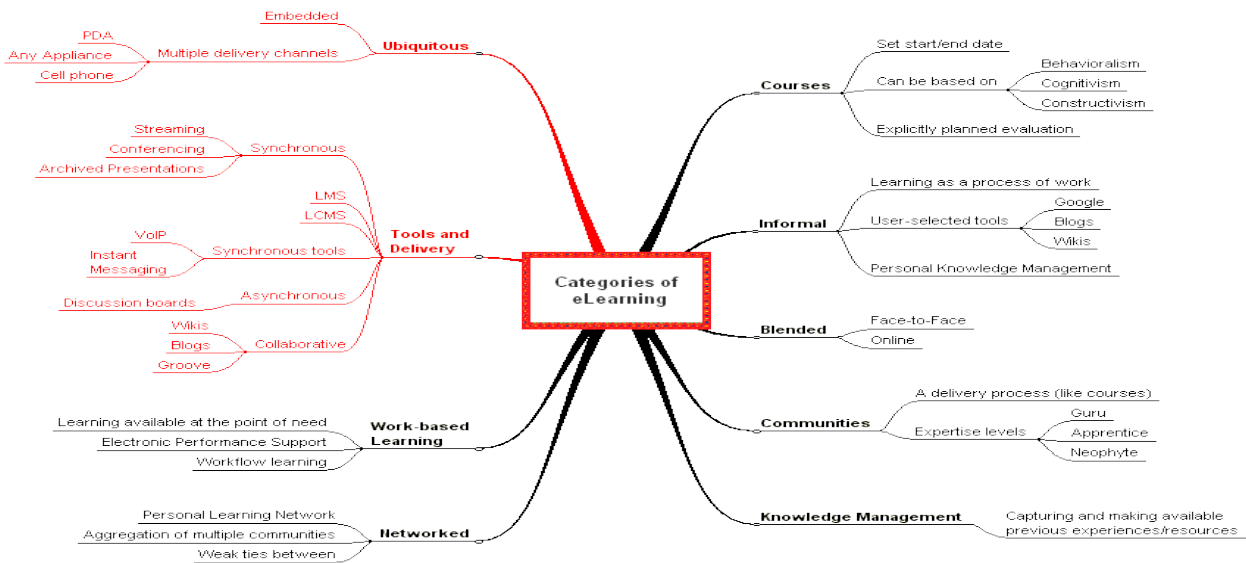
## 3. Benefits

E-Learning allows for a more flexible approach to teaching and learning because it:

- Opens up the possibility of different ways of teaching and learning.
- Supports independent and lifelong learning.
- Is available anytime, anywhere – thus increasing the likelihood of participation by removing barriers created by time zones and distance.
- Creates opportunities for group learning and collaboration.
- Gives learners the opportunity to work at their own pace (to read/view, absorb, and revisit content).
- Can be delivered on mobile devices.
- Makes it easy to reuse, modify, improve, and update content.
- Is likely to bring cost savings.

#### 4. How E-Learning Can be Achieve and Create through Different Tools?

As facts and data raising, the character of the learning and development branch is evolving from content competers to content association. Instead of cross-examining a subject matter expert and using technical writing services to create a presentation or lecture, the content planner creates architectures and tools that everyone in the association can use to share, record, discover and discuss information, ideas, and skills. In many ways e-Learning changing our academic/research practices and some of them are as follows with their short description:-



**Fig.2. Showing Categories eLearning**

#### 4.1 Finding And Curating Information:-

In this age of statistics the learning and growth specialist is a curator with technology tools and networks of informed generations. Forming a workflow for categorization through content, making sense of it inside it, and distribution those tools and methods within an association is bang up-to-date in real time via the Internet. Different tools are listed below with their brief introduction.

##### 4.1.1 Online database and resources:-

- **Warwick- The Library:-**It is a library website. All online resources and essential information about using the library are contained within the Library's website. Browsing this site will give you a good overview of the materials and services that are available to support your study. Use the library catalogue (<http://webcat.warwick.ac.uk/>) to find the books and journals you want to read.
- **Wiley – Online Library:-**Wiley Online Library hosts the world's broadest and deepest multidisciplinary collection of online resources covering life, health and physical sciences, social science, and the humanities. It delivers

seamless integrated access to over 4 million articles from 1500 journals, over 14,000 online books, and hundreds of reference works, laboratory protocols and databases.

**4.1.2** RSS Feeds:-RSS-Rich Site Summary is a family of web feed formats used to publish frequently updated work such as blog entries, news headlines, audio, and video in a standardized format. An RSS document (which is called a "feed", "web feed", or "channel") includes full or summarized text, plus metadata such as publishing dates and authorship.

**4.1.3** Social Bookmarking:-

- **Delicious:-**Delicious is a free service designed to be the best place to save what you love on the web, whether it's a video, picture, product, blog post, article or music. We then help you remember and find it later.

**4.1.4** Reference Management:-

- **Endnote:-**EndNote is a marketable reference management software platform, used to bring about bibliographies and references when writing essays and articles. There are number of ways to add a reference to a library: manually, pass on, trade in, and linking from EndNote.
- **Mendeley:-**Mendeley is a free reference manager and academic social network that can help you organize your research, collaborate with others online, and discover the latest research.

**4.1.5** Readers that Aggregate Sources:-

- **Scoop.it:-**Scoop.it is built to support the vendors, the mentors, and the entrepreneurs rise their visibility online. Scoop.it permits authorities to share significant ideas with the correct spectators giving them an opportunity to create and maintain a meaningful Web existence, a vital module to the achievement of their business and career.
- **Feedly:-**Feedly is a news aggregator application for various Web browsers and mobile running devices IOS and Android, also available as a cloud-based service. It compiles news feeds from a variety of online sources for the user to customize and share with others.

**4.2** Networking:-Networking is imperative to office block a network of information torrents to consume from prolonged networks of colleagues, peers, and experts. Start by mounting your own networks; you need to become relaxed as a curator yourself before you can model this behavior for others. Grasp through social networks (online and off), specialized groups, and simple searches to start finding the content that is

the newscaster of knowledge sharing networks. Different tools are listed below with their brief introduction.

#### 4.2.1 Professional Network:-

- **LinkedIn:-**LinkedIn is a social networking website for people in professional occupations. It is mainly used for social networking.

#### 4.2.2 Funding Opportunities And Research Policy:-

- **Research Professional:-**Research Professional is intuitive platform for online access to all news and funding services. It provides access to your entire organization through a convenient site license. It also provides sophisticated tools to help researchers and managers within an organization work together more effectively.

#### 4.2.3 Search Your Research:-

- **Academia.edu:-** Academia.edu is a platform for academics to share research papers. The company's mission is to accelerate the world's research. Academics use Academia.edu to share their research, monitor deep analytics around the impact of their research, and track the research of academics.

### 4.3 Dissemination: -

Dissemination takes on the model of the customary view of communication, which involves a sender and receiver. The customary communication view point is smashed down into a sender sending information, and receiver collecting the information processing it and sending information back. Different tools are listed below with their brief introduction.

#### 4.3.1 Podcasts:-

- **YouTube:-** YouTube is a video-sharing website, on which users can upload, view and share videos. Maximum content on YouTube has been uploaded by individuals, although media firms including CBS, the BBC, Vevo, Hulu, and other societies offer some of their material via the site.
- **TechSmith:-** TechSmith Corporation is a software company developing screen casting tools, including screen capture, recording and editing software, for Microsoft Windows and Mac OS such as Camtasia and Snagit.
- **Audio boo:-** Audio boo is a tool for audio producers to record, upload and share audio. A boo is made up of any clip of audio, a picture, a location, a title and a description. Broadcasters, Newspapers, Sports networks, podcaster, Educator, and local and community organizations all use boos to increase audience reach.

#### 4.3.2 Blogs and Micro Blogs:-

- **WordPress:-** WordPress is entirely customizable and can be used virtually for anything. There is also a service called WordPress.com which allow

you to get started with a new and free WordPress-based blog in seconds, but differs in several ways and is less flexible than the WordPress you download and install yourself.

- **Twitter:-**Twitter is an online social networking service and microblogging service that enables its users to send and read text-based messages of up to 140 characters, known as "tweets".

**4.4 Online Collaboration:** - Online collaboration is a cluster of people work together in real-time over the Internet. Those tied up with online collaboration can work together on word documents, Power Point presentations and even for brainstorming, all without needing to be in the same room at the same time. There are many great online collaboration tools available, which can help your team accomplish its goals. Different tools are listed below with their brief introduction.

#### **4.4.1 Idea Sharing:-**

- **Mindjet Connect:-**Mindjet Connect is a web-based tender that addresses the need for individuals, teams, and businesses to meet, build, design, and act on information and ideas in a collaborative, visual way. Mindjet Connect provides Web-based visual charting, online storage and sharing of Mindjet maps and other files, Multi-user collaboration competencies, Cloud-based document super vision.
- **Skype:-**Skype is for doing things together, whenever you're apart. Skype's text, voice and video make it simple to share experiences with the people that matter to you, wherever they are.

#### **4.4.2 Creation:-**

- **Google Drive:-**Google Drive is a file storage and synchronization service provided by Google, which enables user cloud storage, file sharing and collaborative editing. Google Drive is now the home of Google Docs, a suite of productivity applications.
- **Microsoft Share Point:-**Microsoft SharePoint is a Web application platform developed by Microsoft. It is the dominant software for creating organizational intranets with a recent survey indicating that around 50% of all intranets are developed using Share Point.

#### **4.4.3 Project Management:-**

- **Huddle:-**Huddle is a privately held cloud-based collaboration and content management software company. The Huddle software platform provides cloud-based file sharing, file storage, content management ,collaboration, task management, discussion boards, custom branding, security and authorization control, as well as an API.
- **Zoho:-**Zoho.com offers a comprehensive suite of award-winning online business, productivity & collaboration applications. To date, Zoho.com has launched 25+ online applications — from CRM to Mail, Office Suite, Project Management, Invoicing, Web conferencing and more.

## 5. Advantages

The major advantages are the tractability, time reduction, and budget. A detailed description of these are as follows:-

- *Tractability, Expediency, and Ease of access*:-Easy and quick ease of access any time anywhere. Students may have the option to select learning materials that meets their level of knowledge and interest. Flexibility to join discussions in the discussion areas at any hour.
- *Time*:-Save the time, because e-Learning reduces travel time. It move faster because the students can frisk activities or materials they already understand and jump to new issues.
- *Budget*:-Reduces travel, lodging and meals cost. Reduces production and distribution the course material, guides...etc. Reduces campus building cost and mentors salaries.
- *Communication and Interactivity*:-Instructors and students both report eLearning fosters more interaction among students and instructors than in large lecture courses. Successfully completing online or computer-based courses builds self-knowledge and self-confidence and encourages students to take responsibility for their learning.

## 6. Disadvantages

There are some disadvantages or limitation as well:-

- Greenhorns with lesser enthusiasm or corrupt study habits may fall in arrears.
- Without the monotonous erections of a traditional class, students may get lost or confused about course activities and deadlines.
- Students may feel inaccessible from the instructor and classmates.
- Not all the courses can be delivered online.
- Deliberate Internet connections or of age computers may make accessing course materials maddening.
- Handling computer files and online learning software can sometimes seem multifarious for students with beginner-level computer abilities.
- Practical or lab work is tough to simulate in a virtual classroom.



## 7. CONCLUSION

In a context of overall positive attitudes, towards e-Learning, the research findings indicated that there were some possible barriers and enablers to e-learning use in further education. There should sufficient access to e-learning resources. Institution should have an ethos and environment towards e-Learning and have a positive attitude towards its use. E-learning is being used for quite extensively as a preparation and presentational tool, and in some areas as a medium for facilitating teaching and learning (making course materials available to learners and sharing them with colleagues) and as a learning tool. Institutions also have to make aware and familiar learners with e-Learning and its different resources. So, that it may come out to be helpful for future and career. In the research, many of the e-learning tools are discussed which will give knowledge about the need and use of e-Learning. Hence, it will be better for campuses and people to prefer e-learning for their evolution as it seems the coming world will be based on e-Learning to get knowledge and become educated. Overall, e-learning is interesting and creative way of learning.

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