

Importance Apply of E-learning as an Instructional Design for New Electronic Environment in Iraqi Universities

Ahmed Dheyaa Basha, Satar Habib Mnaathr, Rayan Yousif Alkhayat, Dr. Rozinah Jamaludin,
& Associate Prof. Muhammad Rafie.

1) *Centre for Instructional Technology and Multimedia (CITM)*

2) *School of Computer Sciences.*

Universiti Sains Malaysia, 11800

Abstract -The current paper considers urgent issues concerning the changes in the instructional design in education by adapting e-learning for a learning course which lead to new e- implementation in Iraqi of education 'environment. Currently learners are very familiar and enthusiastic with new informative information via web technologies; a modification of a learning course's instructional design according their requirements is of key importance. In the represented article there is accuracy 'described for much main advantages and disadvantages of both approaches to education whether were: traditional ways (paper-based) or modern (computer-based). Overall, an instructional design for new e-environment (e-learning) encompasses all the main concepts of a learning course. Therefore, diverse sets of instructional tools and techniques are required to develop instructional design for simulate various learning course. Electing of instructional tools based on the specific features of a particular course. In this respect this article described the major tools and techniques used to develop an instructional design over e-learning course for new e-environment in Iraqi 'universities which lacking for apply.

Keywords- e-learning course, instructional design, educational technique, teaching methods, Moodle

1. INTRODUCTION

New learning e-environment (e-learning) is full of innovations; technological enhancements have profound 'affect on a learning process significantly and provide brand by new ways of development. Implementation of the epochal technology in education resulted in the development of new class of learners, which are more effective and familiar with the electronic approach, based on computer-based to a learning process, than with the traditional, paper-based approach of education[1-2].

Iraqi 'universities one of institutions which are still striving to apply new online technology (e-learning) as an e-environment between each other in one hand and to join with world 'community in other hand, are undergoing the processes of changes and improvement by which a lot of organizations such (UNESCO), (UNESCWA) [3-4].and number of researchers such as (Amer, Alhadithi, Rozhan, Harb, Elameer, Idrus and Badrul Huda Khan..etc) [5-6]. As well to investigate and launching cooperation among Iraqi universities by adapting modern strategies and embracing new technology to apply e-learning course and teaching methods.

2. METHODS AND PROCEDURES

In general, an instructional design through e-learning surrounded the entire main concepts of a learning course .Consequently; whole changes that occur in the learning process affect intrinsically an instructional design of a learning course in new e-

environment as one of contemporary educational technique in education [7-8]. Therefore, it is vital what learning activities, methods, techniques and components are included in the learning course toward e-learning as a new e-environment. Instructional designers specifically are aimed to use the "blending" of learning "ingredients" that warranty high quality knowledge and develop skills for learners [7].

In traditional ways in education (paper-based) for learning environment and instructional design is prominent mainly at a creation of a leaning content [9]. The core attention is devoted to the specifics learning of a learning content, and those pedagogical tools and techniques that should included in it. A learning method which used usually in this type of education is mainly F2F (Face to Face) at traditional classrooms or acoustic [10]. In this respect and to compare a traditional approach to education with an education using modern informational technology (e-learning)as new e- environment of education ,consider the following table:

Table 1

Traditional approach to learning	Modern approach to learning in new e-environment of education	
	Blended learning	Pure e-learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F2F communication amongst student and instructors; • A lack of usage of IT and ICT in learning process (only presentation and a little of CD/DVD are used); • Limitations in terms : time and space; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F2F communication amongst students and instructors; • Usage of IT and multimedia in the learning process; • Non limitations and substantial independence from time and space (synchronous); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No F2F communication amongst students and instructors; a learning process can be performed only by means of IT and ICT; • Usage of IT and ICT very widely; • Absolute independence from time and space (asynchronous);

While improving and developing an instructional design via new e-environment (e-learning) for a modern learning course, usually instructional designers are concentrated on the collaboration and the target group for the learners. Modern students are very enthusiastic in embracing the latest and new informational technology, especially in its practical usage[11]. Today unthinkable a student that is not able to use some communication software such Skype or Face book, email and etc. Although of this the fact, that these software systems became default

using and are not directly intended to have a pedagogical usage, they are used in education very effectively and subtly. In the current time students become have process of familiarizing with such systems and learners familiarize their selves with those tools and techniques of web 2.0 such as (Moodle, wikis, blogs and etc.), that are used in the much modern learning process very intensively. Iraqi universities take into account those cumulative changes in technology before embarking on adapting new e-environment (e-learning) in education [4-10].

As the major position in the learning process has changed from a teacher to the student, thus modern instructional designers are reoriented learning process to the students and their requirements [3-5]. Therefore, learning courses and its ingredients are designed in the way to be the most suitable and attract to learners to encourage and induce them to earn as much knowledge and skill, as possible. As it is very important to move from old learning paradigms to modern, IT and ICT- based paradigms of education, partnership of instructional designers and IT and ICT specialists become of key element [13-14]. The following table outlines those instructional tools and techniques to enhance and develop both of modern (computer-based) and traditional (paper-based) for learning course.

Table 2

Learning Process in Education		
Descriptive Methods	Traditional approach in education	Modern approach in education
Learning method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F2F communicate in acoustic or auditory; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F2F communicate in acoustic or auditory; • Pure e-learning such(distance learning); • Blended Learning;
Learning activities daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture(F2F) in classroom; • Assignments (F2F); • Presentations(F2F); • Testing and quiz(F2F); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture (F2F,or using IT and ICT: video lectures, video conference,); • Assignments(F2F, or using IT and ICT); • Presentations(F2F, or using IT and ICT); • Self direct learning testing for grading(F2F, or using IT and ICT); • Synchronous and asynchronous activities (chatting, forums etc.) • Tools of Web 2.0 (blogs, Moodle, wikis, and etc.)
Learning resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous types of printed material mainly (books, journals, hand outs, etc.); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous types of printed material mainly (books, journals, hand outs, etc.); • CD, DVD, multimedia and ICT resources; • E-Libraries; • Web pages; • Etc.

Tools and new techniques which used in develop e-learning courses unquestionable enable students not to be restricted in terms time and space (asynchronous) this is aspect made the learners able to earn knowledge even in their working -places and this

one of the features for new e-learning environment, especially in the rural or remote area and considers one of important obstacles for both of gender in Iraq education environment, seeks to cope it to apply e-learning [1-2-15]. Meanwhile instructional designers with new trail are trying to increase learning course with means e-communication to make it reasonable for learners and lectures to collaboration between each others.

RESULTS

Current time our universities are undergoing a very complicated process of changing old learning to new approaches in education by apply (e-learning). As senior researcher in USM, we are seeking and preparing to achieve this new technique via adapting e-environment represented by e-learning in some of Iraqi public universities par with new big project Ibn Sina to development of a quality e-learning system in Iraqi universities, established and sponsored by (UNESCO)[4]. Within our research “e-learning readiness in Iraqi public universities to development of SDL, engagement, and attitude among students and instructors in this scope in 2013 and lasts till now. We

are preparing several pilot learning courses for some of universities in Iraq such as Basrah University, Al-Technology University, and Baghdad University together with the specialists in IT and ICT fields (specialists of the particular learning contents); we are developing instructional design for each learning course according to their specifications. We used much more multimedia components and video/audio, than e-learning course in Computer Science. We are using tools of web 2.0 as well as Learning Management System (Moodle) to create self control and examination tests.

We can outline the main principles that an instructional designer should adhere to establish e-learning course in e-environment in education via e-learning:

- A learning contents should be prepared and represented to learners in small portion and easy ways to read and understand, and once the instructional designers want to insert some of media –components in the text (graph, pictures and etc), they must be very careful, because the glutting might make a learning course useless and end up lead into negative results, and to overcome on this case must create different software package be used in this purpose like (MS project) as well as Moodle, and some of tools to create media-contents such free software system.
- Learning course should include an assessment tools, Self assessment tools make a learning process more interactive; Learning Management System (LMS) like Moodle is equipped with quite effective and flexible testing engines.
- A learning course should involve new mechanism for tracking students' activities and their performance, engagement and the results should be keeping being analysis and almost all the (LMS) are equipped with this possibility.
- Tools which used to synchronous and asynchronous communications in new learning course under new e- environment (e-learning); on other hand, insertion of tools of web 2.0 like blog and wiki in the learning process very important to increasingly topical for ensure the collaboration.
- It is very important communication with learners and amongst them based on pure e-learning method of education, then emailing, chats and forums. In this process the participants enhance the relationship between them, eventually all the tools

and techniques in new e-environment (e-learning) described above are intended to create suitable ambiance for interactive and communicate in free from time and space in their learning course , which we should offer them first to achieve high quality and technological learning course in new e-environment(e-learning).

3. CONCLUSION

In spite of many different approaches to topic, e-learning became now indispensable as an essential component of education. Therefore e-learning has changed and developed the face of education in terms: training and learning in all scopes. In this respect e-learning in education is not only shifting the way students learn or how teachers teach, but how knowledge is delivered easily and scaffolding the skill and experience for educators and learners through train and contributed in open communication and engagement among students to strand alone (SDL) as well as foster the relationship between learner and educator to avoid isolation by driving techniques and utilization of new Web technologies ,software application to enhance learning skills in virtual environments. Thus teachers and instructional designers should adherent all the improvements and innovations to embracing new educational system as a whole ,only this way the students and lecturers can involved the learning process intensively especially in adopting new e-environment like Iraq universities.

REFERENCES

- [1] Browne, J. (2010). Securing a sustainable future for higher education in England: An Independent review of higher education funding& student financial. Retrieve February 20, 2011, from <http://hereview.independent.gov.uk/hereview/rep>
- [2] Harb, I. (2008). Higher education and the future of Iraq: United States Institute of Peace (USIP).
- [3] UNESCO . (2011). Information & Communication Technologies for Education. UNESCO Iraq Computer labs established to help integrate ICT in Education Retrieved 2-June, 2011, from <http://www.unesco.org/en/iraq-office/education-sector-at-the-unesco-office-for-iraq/general-education-at-the-unesco-office-for-iraq/ict-in-education-in-iraq/>
- [4] UNESCO . (2011). Training Teachers for Sustainable Quality Education in Iraq. UNESCO Iraq Training of university professors in Iraq Retrieved 1-June, 2011, from <http://www.unesco.org/en/iraq-office/education-sector-at-the-unesco-office-for-iraq/higher-education-in-iraq/training-of-trainers-in-teacher-education-for-sustained-quality-education-in-iraq/>
- [5] Amer, E., & Rozhan, I. (2010). The Readiness for an e-Learning System at the University of Mustansiriyah

- (UoMust) Baghdad-Iraq. *Malaysian Journal of Educational Technology*, 10 (2), 31-42.
- [6] Alhadithi, A., Idrus, R. M., & Elameer, A. S. (2011). Re-engineering Iraqi Higher Education with the E-Education Solutions. *Recent Researches in Education*, WSEAS Press, 37-42.
- [7] Fyle, C. O., Moseley, A., & Hayes, N. (2012). Troubled times: the role of instructional design in a modern dual-mode university? *Open Learning: The Journal of Open, Distance and e-Learning*, 27(1), 53-64.
- [8] Hoban, G., Neu, B., & Castle, S. R. (2002). Assessment of Student Learning in an Educational Administration Online Program.
- [9] Spatariu, A., Hartley, K., & Bendixen, L. D. (2004). Defining and measuring quality in online discussions. *The Journal of Interactive Online Learning*, 2(4), 1-15.
- [10] Elameer, A.S.F. & Idrus, R.M. (2010). The Readiness for an e-learning System in the university of Mustansiriyah (UoMust) Baghdad-Iraq. *Malaysian Journal of Educational Technology*, 10(2), pp.31-41.
- [11] Robinson, B. (2008). Using distance education and ICT to improve access, equity and the quality in rural teachers' professional development in western China. *International Review of Research in Open and Distance Learning*, 9 (1), 1-4.
- [12] Cathy. (2010). Online education, self directed learning and student centered learning. Retrieved 22-04, 2012.
- [13] BBC. (2010, May 22). Your money: Distance learning courses. 2010. Retrieved February 20, 2011, from BBC News Web site: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/10142490>.
- [14] Beconyte, G., Govorov, M., Ningal, T. F., Paršeliūnas, E., & Urbanas, S. (2008). Geographic information training initiatives for national spatial data infrastructures. *Technology and economic development of economy*, 14(1), 11-28.
- [15] Horton, W., & Horton, K. (2003). *E-learning Tools and Technologies: A consumer's guide for trainers, teachers, educators, and instructional designers*: Wiley.