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This module is from the University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD), it started this semester on the 15th of February.

The topic that I have to write about is called Moodle.

What Is Moodle?

Moodle is a free software, a learning management system providing a platform for e-learning, and it helps the various educators considerably in conceptualizing the various courses, course structures and curriculum thus facilitating interaction with online students.

Moodle stands for Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment and statistics reveal that about 14 million consumers are engaged in about 1.4 million courses propagated by this learning management system.

Moodle is provided freely as Open-Source software, under the GNU General Public License. Anyone can adapt, extend or modify Moodle for both commercial and non-commercial projects

without any licensing fees and benefit from the cost-efficiencies, flexibility and other advantages of using Moodle.

Moodle also has got more than 120 languages.

My Experience with Moodle:

For me this was my first time and year that I started using Moodle. In the academic year 2019/2020 I was in High School in Italy, we studied online (because of the pandemic that happened), but we never used Moodle. Only in the Universities they use it.

In this academic year (2020/2021), I used, and I will use it a lot because we are doing online classes and we do not know yet if we will return at the Universities or not the next term.

I did not find 8 people to ask them my questionnaire, so I asked to myself and my friends (in total we are 6 people including me, some of them are not in the UK, they are in Italy, but they use Moodle too) some questions about Moodle and I will report them now.

The first question is: **What do you think about Moodle and Online Learning?**

Me: I think that Moodle is a very good platform to do the online classes and to find all the stuff (for example: slides for the modules, student service, etc). Personally, I cannot say if I prefer the online lessons or the lessons in the University campus, but I do find Moodle and the online lessons very comfortable to do.

Only when I will try the lessons in the campus I will say what I prefer, but for me it is fine with the online classes.

Friend 1: Personally, I find Moodle quite easy to use and useful for what I need to do. I prefer using Moodle to do all my stuff and do the online classes instead of going in the University campus.

Because of that I chose to study in a University with an online course.

This friend of mine is studying in Italy, and he is doing an online degree course because in the morning he works.

Friend 2: Moodle for me is good but not the best, but only for a reason: I do not like to study at home, I prefer to study in a library. I do not like to do online classes because I do not like to study at home and because I cannot focus on the lessons, and I cannot interact with my class group and the teachers.

This friend of mine is also studying in Italy, but in the first two years he studied in the University campus, now he is studying online because of the pandemic.

Friend 3: I cannot say that I do not like to use Moodle because it is very comfortable to use. It is comfortable because I do not have to travel to go in the University, but I never tried the experience of going in the University because of this pandemic.

Because of this I cannot say if it is better doing online lesson instead of doing the “Face to Face” lessons. But I like the online lessons.

This friend of mine is also studying in Italy, and this is his first year in a university.

Friend 4: I do not liked Moodle only for one reason: this main reason is because I am not too good on the computer, I preferred the “Old School” style of learning (for example: find what need in a library instead of searching for it online) because I never tried the online one. But now thanks to the pandemic I am learning to use a computer and to be a more open-minded person (to not judge before trying).

This friend of mine studied in Egypt, but now he started to study in the United Kingdom in the first year.

FRIEND 5: For me Moodle is really good to use because with Moodle you have the easiest way to do research and it is more comfortable for me, because I have a little girl now, so for me it would have been very difficult to go in library to find the exact book and do my research. For the online lessons, for me it is so strange to do it. It is strange because for the degree I studied in the University five years ago and I never did an online lesson, all the lessons that I did where in class. But thankfully, now that I have a little girl I can study and do online lessons.

This friend of mine studied in Italy for the degree and now she is doing the master here in the United Kingdom and it is her first year.

As we can see from the responses, most of us (me and my friends) liked Moodle, in different ways, but all of us use it.

My friend 4 did not liked Moodle as he said because when he started using it with his University, he did not know how to use it to find information, etc. But now he started to be more confident

using it and using the computer. He did not know how to use it because in Egypt, he never used Moodle for the University because they never taught him and his class group for how to use it.

Me and other friends, use Moodle every time to find the slides and all type of information that we need.

The second question is: **What did you liked and what did you not liked about Moodle?**

Me: What I like about Moodle that it is the easiest and the fastest way (when you understand and know how to use it) to do a lot of things: to contact the service desk; to see all the assignments that we must do; to find the information's that I need and to see and download the slides of the lessons.

What I do not like about Moodle are the problems or the issues that it might have (for example: problems with the server or connection issues if you change the computer or the smartphone, because it can take too much time to have a fix).

Friend 1: What I like about Moodle is the easy way to find all the type of information that I need to search about and because they always update the site when they have new information.

What I do not like about Moodle are the problems that the servers can have and when they take too much time to solve it, but I know that it is not easy to solve all type of problems.

Friend 2: What I like about Moodle are the type of information's that you can find when you understand how to use Moodle in a

proper way and when you do not know something you can ask in the service desk for information.

What I do not like about Moodle are the server problems and the difficulty to connect Moodle and its various applications (Microsoft Teams, Authenticator and Office 365) with the computer or the smartphone.

Friend 3: What I like about Moodle that it is very comfortable and easy when you understand how to use it. Fortunately, in my University they taught us how to use it step by step

What I do not like about Moodle are the server's problem, because when they have problems, they can take too long to fix it. A part of that, I like it.

Friend 4: What I like about Moodle is that you can find information online without going to a library, even if I prefer it.

What I do not like about Moodle is that it is not easy to use it because I cannot use a computer properly, but step by step it become easier to use.

Friend 5: What I like about Moodle is that you can use it every time you need it (for example if I study or do my research at night). That is the difference between it and the library.

What I do not like about Moodle is in the service desk, because when they do not know something, they do not tell who you can ask for this type of information you ask for. Another thing I do not like are the server problems that can happen and if they take a long time to solve them.

As we can see here from the responses, everyone of us said what we like and what we do not like about Moodle.

All of us liked Moodle because it is comfortable to use everywhere and whenever we need it, unlike the library which has timetables, and you must travel to go in a library and maybe you will find the library full of people. And we can use Moodle for the service desk to ask the questions we want at any time we want (they receive it, and we await the answer).

Most of us do not like the server problems (especially if they take a long time to solve them). My friend 5 had some problems with the documents and did not know how to solve them, but fortunately now she solved them. Me, my friend 1 and my friend 2, do not liked the problems you can have connecting new computers or mobile devices.

The third question is: **How often do you use Moodle?**

Me: I use Moodle 3 or 4 times a week for now, I use it every time that I need to do my assignments and research.

Friend 1: I use Moodle twice a week, because from Monday to Friday I work, so I can focus on my studies on my studies during the weekend.

Friend 2: I use Moodle whenever I have online classes and assignments, I use it like 5 times a week.

Friend 3: I always must use it when I have class and studies, like 4 or 5 times a week.

Friend 4: Before the pandemic I never used Moodle too much, because I prefer to find the information's in the books or in the newspaper. But now I must use it every time I have to study (4 or 5 times a week).

Friend 5: I use Moodle every time that I have free time because I have the little girl. I use it like 3 or 4 times a week.

As we can see from the responses, me and all my friends, use Moodle more than once a week. In Italy they use it like every day because they have lessons from Monday to Friday (sometimes even Saturday). For all of us, Moodle is very important to use for all our studies and for all our student carrier. It is important to learn how to work online and how to use social media and internet in general in a fair and safe way.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, me and my friends found Moodle really important for our studies and for all the documents, slides and information that we can find for our research and for our assignments.

Especially in this pandemic period that we are living and experiencing.

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Moodle [https://docs.moodle.org/310/en/About Moodle](https://docs.moodle.org/310/en/About_Moodle)