

Digital Learning

INTRODUCTION

Digital learning is a diverse way of sharing and gathering information online. To help benefit the community in encouraging users to collaborate together, using digital electronic screens to connect and configure information. Learning digitally has defined our way of educating each other, not only for the previous generation but for the new generation as well. This tool has joined humanity combining intellects to potentially connect.

Digital learning has affected our educational system significantly, in recent years education boards have encouraged the students to learn online and have spoken to parents and instructed that secondary school children complete homework online rather than be handed paper, (Moodie, 2014). This benefits the environment by not only saving raw materials but learning freely and being taught how to be ready for the next new generation. The generation currently is digitally craved by owning laptops, tablets or even a mobile phone, in these days an education essential. Being able to access another's information is a real advantage to students.

Main findings

The first general mechanical computer, was designed by a man called Charles Babbage in 1822, called the analytic engine. Unfortunately, due to costing and financial struggles the machine was never built, however theorists say that without work from Charles Babbage it would have been harder to initialise mechanical computers (Wilde, 2019). On the other hand, Alan Turing thought about theories for computing computers, thus lead him to create the 'Turing machine' which was firstly introduced in 1936. (Wilde, 2019) This is one of the first considered modern computer, The Turing Machine was a series of logical instructions that without the fundamentals it could not work, also if Alan had not begun this process of inventing the machine, we most likely would not have the computers and software we have today.

From computers to internet service, it is unfair to credit the invention of the internet to one person, as it took dozens of scientists, programmers and engineers whom each developed features and technologies that eventually became an information highway online we know today. On the third of July 1969, the first network equipment known as the internet was introduced to the public. (Hope, 2018)

Technology is being improved regularly which allows us as a community to combine our ideas, to maintain and create a sustainable future. Social development is a beneficial part of digital learning, not only to better themselves but to collaborate effectively. Digital learning is a common learning strategy with multiple settings regarding education, the purpose of online education is to better the knowledge of anybody craving to develop intellectually, socially and emotionally (writings, 2012)

[Social media trends– influence within digital learning](#)

Social media trends impacts' digital learning in a positive direction enabling the community to be brought together and discuss different educational or social perspectives. Using social media is fascinating because in 2018 55% of the world's population have internet access. Approximately four Billion people, almost half of the population that use the internet, therefore giving the sense anybody could be online (2018, 2018).

Any website that involves social interactions is accounted as a social media platform (Gwenn Schurgin O'Keeffe MD, 2019) Social media has advanced within recent years, finding new ways to communicate to one another from all over the globe. For example, Facebook records suggest that over 651,835,100 million users are active on Facebook (howmanyarethere, 2011). Social platforms online allow us to organise, find, share and gather knowledge. Instant messaging social media apps such as Facebook, Instagram or snapchat. for me, have helped greatly for academic studying, by encouraging me to connect with others, and ask questions about assignments or time of academic lectures.

Using social media Websites is among a common day to day activity in students. Engaging in a routine from social media can benefit operators by enhancing communication skills, social connection and technical skills (Gwenn Schurgin O'Keeffe MD, 2019)

For example, I study business management at University of Wales Trinity Saint David, we have an online group on Facebook there to ask questions or to even find what room we are located, this helps not only me but people in the classroom also. There are so many social media platforms that can affect a person's learning, either for better or for worse. There is no limit to learning digitally especially whilst online communicating with people on social media who have qualifications or experience in the profession queried.

Search engines are other pathways to searching information, although Another social platform used by few on the current course, is Microsoft. Lately we have been emailing about ourselves, so we have the chance to understand one another a little bit better. Again, there are several numbers of platforms, although digital learning can come from any digital screen, students knower days own consoles like, PlayStation or Xbox and play online which can also improve discussion of work via online, this helps to stay connected and progress in social interaction.

Strengths and weaknesses of digital learning

Impacts from learning electronically are both positive and negative. It has affected our society in numerous of ways advantageously and undesirably, by sustaining a linked environment. this allows the community to fetter and share as one.

A few positive factors of learning electronically would be for instance meeting new people through continuous social media platforms. Although connecting people can provide new learning skills or acquire knowledge for day to day activities passed on by people in basic professions. These are positive perspectives of the many benefits available from learning online. Learning online gives people, the chance to explore new skills or new possibilities within fact no limits to data, a search engine can

configure other 8 million searches linked to the search bar. This is another positive affection from digitally learning. Besides positive, weaknesses for online collaboration is that not all information can be accurate, thus leading to irrelevant data. Learning digitally is another tool for being able to access information from multiple sources disregarding time or place if it's within the globe in range of service or internet connection.

Although collaboration and elaboration apps seem to be a positive was of learning, this can also have a negative effect on some of the users. For example, some pages and events are aimed towards abusive and direct negative thoughts commonly known as cyber bullying. "Learning tools are an element of control" (Horton, 2016) Radical groups such as ISIS take advantage of social media to in fact isolate and frighten users with violent propaganda, to unstable the community and virtually change people's mind on how positive the internet can be. In junction with negative impacts via social media, Pages, events or social gathering's on Facebook along with other social media platforms can on the other hand, bring a positive social aspect bringing new cultures, opinions and perspectives for different activities or academic studying. In respect digital learning can benefit, connect and divide. The fact of not having to face interaction can also benefit visual learners, with reference to users with a disadvantage in social surrounding.

Some students prefer to work independently as well as within a class room, this technique is valuable to other students discussing the information they have learned, besides sending relevant links to provide more additional evidence. In consideration that yes, it is a good way of learning but Is it a true benefit for the way we learn, including the pros and cons.

My own individual strengths of digital literacy are mainly located by searching the web and working with my class companions online to deliberate various topics to better our growth with academic studies. Personally, countless of my strong points lye within digital learning as I intend to investigate and examine data thoroughly through either social media platforms, or web links. On the other hand, another weakness in digital

learning which concerns me, is the fact of knowing which data is correct and further searching for better work and evidence to support this.

Personal Learning Approach

My learning approach is a cognitive tactic which allows me to learn, with a more direct method, it's based on knowledge and experiencing the information either face to face, or digitally. Moodle is another great tool I personally use for learning online, thus gives me access to most of my tutor's information which improves my understanding of tasks and allows me to work accurately.

My own personal learning environment is that I prefer to work independently unless it's a participative group, then elaborating together brings the task organised formally. Learning self-sufficiently, allows me to fully understand and let the information data sink in. Whilst partaking in digital learning to better the knowledge of myself I discovered that, not only do I need internet access to involve myself with the digital world, I also require access to a digitalised screen which is an investment in not only my own academic learning but for others also.

From university I have researched, gathered and analysed other people's data with majority of research being led with digital learning. This is a key part of digital erudition, just by interpretation other working-class views on how things are run, or how they may be set out is a great advantage, to my own learning. I believe having access to learning online at any given time, permit me to work effectively and at my own pace.

Advice For 21 Century Students

Being online in the 21 Century is norm to this day of age, granting specific areas are protected e.g. protecting personal data, such as images or personal content. Be wary of whom you speak to, as not all users are who they say they are. Besides protecting personal data, always reference work that does not belong to you, this can improve learning strategies via showing tutors you have clearly understood something you have read either online or offline. The trends for 21C students are social media and being able to access others information regardless of time or place, this allows

students and users to reach full potential and gather information on people, social gatherings or historical events. My advice for people who are new to learning digitally I would say, protect your data and always double check information.

The Virtual learning environment for twenty first century users is a normality, as having access to the internet is to some degree what most people can access. which will assistance students when attending university by already having experience with using internet instrument's. If experienced, students will be able to follow instructions given by tutors which will profit there learning and increase the acquaintance of other users wanting to use the community to collaborate, using digital electronic screens to connect.

Preparing undergraduates for university is a tough challenge to set, although the majority of students will have experienced access to the internet, thus leading to easier progression through digital learning. Undergraduates will also receive training from tutors and excess societies from the campus, this will help improve their way of learning online, to support their educational needs.

Conclusion

The reflection from my own learning, has shown me that learning online has given me the best advantage to overcoming barriers that I do not understand. The virtual learning environment improves my way to comprehend subjects I have not discovered yet, the internet has had a huge impact on my life, not only for learning but for the social aspect as well. The twenty first century has enabled us to digitally record information, which has furthered my own education.

Understanding the digital world is something I have yet to fully experience, years of practice and still new ways of connecting online are being regularly updated which entréegs me. New ways of learning digitally have developed my own way of constructing information, I enjoy the societal benefits of speaking to people in the virtual world, especially when they have interesting opinions on how education should

be changed or evolved. My reflection is to new users for the upcoming centuries is to allow progression online however in the real world also.

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