

Digital skills and research methods

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Introduction

Virtual learning environment is a way of getting knowledge via internet, can give power to the people's imagination where the conversation may be as a call, video or text messages (for questions and answers from students). This is a technology used by University and schools, more often in the situation when students and teachers cannot go to the classroom. Analyzing different answers from students and seeing what they face while using this platform, seeing the impact of VLE in their understanding and if it is more useful than attending to the classrooms.

This report has the purpose to analyze Virtual learning environment at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. This way of teaching has been used very often in last months.

Reason for this research

Virtual learning environment it is not a new stage in teaching in these days, many of the Universities have their own platforms for students (SC& Scand, 2020), this kind of teaching online is covering going to classroom and in special this time of Covid-19 when we cannot attend to the University. Many of workplaces are introducing virtual interview and training online, and this can help the future employees and student to save money for traveling, also other good reason is that if the meeting is finished the people can access the information after. In this report is going to show the importance of this platform for students from University of Wales Trinity Saint David.

Aims and objectives

The aims of this report is to collect data from different people, asking diverse questions about VLE and importance of it, how people find it, if there are any difficulties accessing it and the ways of improve it in future.

The objectives are:

- a) Finding the effect of using Virtual Learning Environment methods
- b) To search the different ways of online teaching
- c) To identify the ideas of improving VLE

Literature review

Virtual learning environmental has a major impact in teaching and understanding in students and lecturer life. According to Politechniki (2000), VLE have important educational issue for University, leaving the learners with misunderstanding about the lesson and the teacher should recognize the issue and try to solve it.

Virtual learning environment is described as an open system giving free access to interact and share the information between participants proving many resources (Wilson 1996).

According to Hill and Hannafin(1997) VLE is easy to access from anywhere, without having a specific time, making people to feel free on telling their opinions , their thinking , own point of view and showing self control and own way of thinking.

Students are the most ones which are using VLE very often. The lecturer has more responsibility than in a classroom, and students need to use more technology in learning improving the digital skills and research methods (Alavi et all,1995).

Because of the easy access of Virtual Learning Environment there have been many improving in the world, named as unlocked systems, allowing the interaction between lecturer and students (Beller, Or 1998).

Methodology

Methodology is a set of procedures leading to a research, is a way of understanding the different ways of getting the data from people, explaining the methods of collecting the data and sort it. This method has two types: qualitative and quantitative.

Qualitative research method is a good way of collect the data, not missing anything from the conversation, is focusing in two questions what and why people think in that way (QuestionPro, 2020).

Quantitative research method is a process of collecting numeral information and it is the opus of qualitative method, is mostly used in economy and market for collecting the data (Pritha ,2020).

I have used both qualitative and quantitative methods because this survey needs the two of them for collecting the necessary data.

Population is a whole number of people in a city or region. The population which will be asked about Virtual Learning Environment will be students from University of Wales Trinity Saint David, where are around 2500 people (Merriam-Webster,2020).

According to Merriam-Webster (2020), a sample is only a part from all number of people to show which most of the time are showing the quality.

Sample size is measuring the number of people which are going to be asked to answer to the survey, because of Covid-19 the students are not attending to the University will be small number of students which are going to answer to this survey, will 15 people.

Data collection process

Data is an information which can be stored or transmitted in different form and ways. There are two types of data: primary and secondary.

Primary data is the information obtained by searching directly through interview or survey, before the data collection will be made the people should be identify first. This type of data is sometimes expensive to do it mostly when there is a need to travel , instand can be validate the reliability and the details are know by the person which did the collection, another advantage is that when someone is doing searching about something the reasons and what is needed for analysis are truly visible and keeps in truck the collector.

Secondary data is a research of primary data which already has been collected by someone, is mostly used in research projects, group working. According to Margaret (1999-2020) the researcher needs to focus on primary data or other areas of interest. This data research is quick and easy to be collected, no need to travel or to spend money for anything in the process for collecting, like in every good part is something less good the disadvantages for secondary data is that the person which is researching cannot validate the information and the may not be what you are looking to collect, other negative thing is the format of the data could be in different way than you are expecting to be

Data collection process

The primary has been collected by a questionnaire of eight questions which has sanded to students via email address, the answers in received in the same way.

Secondary data was collected by conducting a survey using the information gained from primary data. I have asked permission from students for using their answers and their identity will be confidential. The information collected will be used only with the study purpose.

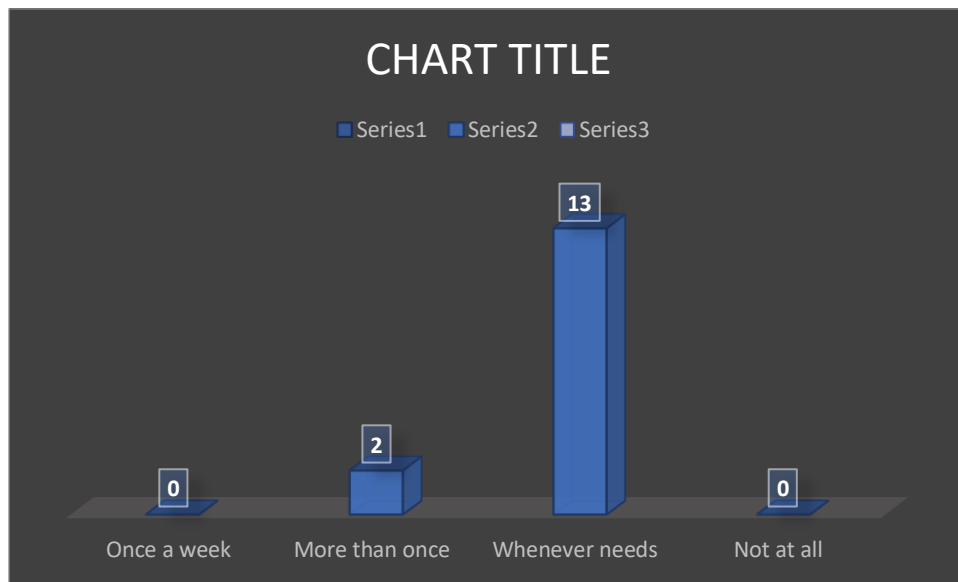
Results analysis

Q1. Are you familiar with virtual learning?



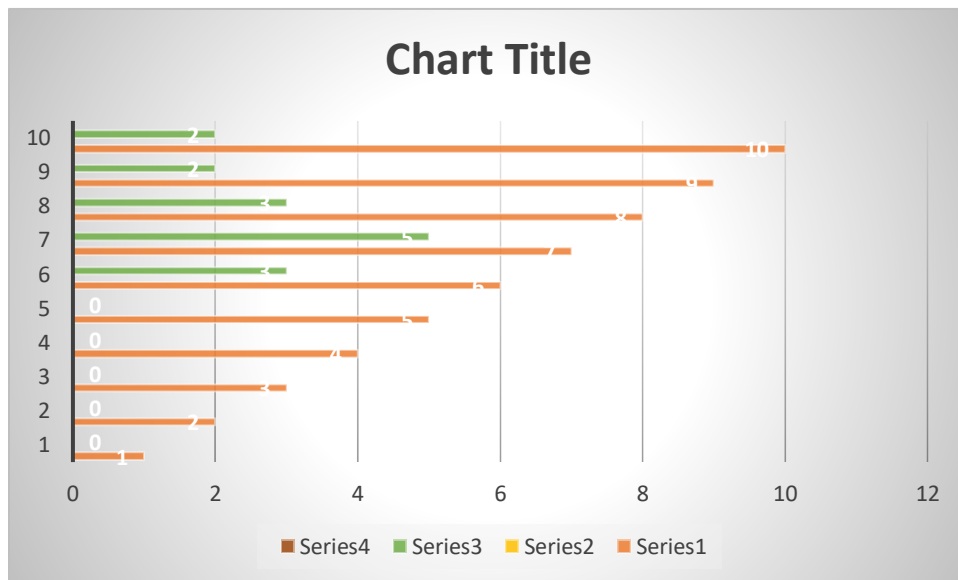
The result is showing that 15 people from 15 have knowledge and are familiar with Virtual Learning Environment.

Q2. How often do you access Moodle?



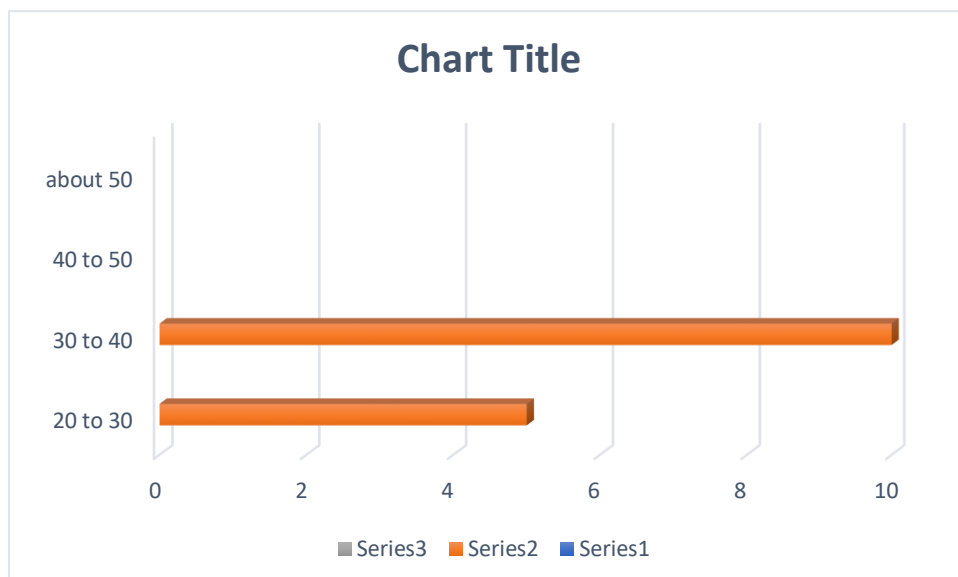
As result most of the people are using this platform for learning more than once a week, more because of the situation of Covid-19 which is pushing the Universities to use this type of teaching online. Most of them are using it that often because there are 4 classes a week and if they attend will be more than once using this way of learning and also because of Covid-19 which keeps students at home .

Q3. In a scale of 10, how much do you recommend Moodle?



Most of the people are not happy with this way of learning because of misunderstanding the lesson, there are some points where the internet connection is low, problems with the application, locking people out and hardly get back to the meeting. Few of them did not face too many problems or at all.

Q4. What is your age group?



As I have notice after all the answer from my colleagues, most of the students in our University they have the age between 30 and 40; maybe because they did not have possibilities to go. Thus, only few of them are under 30 which may have the same situation, the difference is the time.

Open-ended questions

1. After receiving the answers from students, I saw many problems and difficulties faced while using this way of learning, as locked out and cannot connect back to the meeting, problem with the sound, no time for too many questions, bad internet connection and there was not any positive answer. Most of the students want to go back to the classroom because they consider traditional way of teaching useful and easy to learn.
2. This platform needs improvement in some point, to make it to be more easy to be used, because nobody can help the internet connection to be good if it is not, and most of the students did not know what to say about the way of improvement.

Summary of the findings

From the analyzing the answers from students VLE is doing a good job and considering the benefit which this platform is offering to them, most because they cannot attend to classroom and there is no any other way of getting the knowledge from lecturer, there may be problems sometimes, at least the platform is giving them free access to ask questions or to get more information about a subject. Some of them are saying that this platform need to be improved and make it more easier to access it because not all of them have too many digital skills.

Conclusion

This report helped me a lot and gave me many information about people's opinion about Virtual Learning Environment. Many schools and Universities are using this technologies for teaching and is finding it useful for delivering the information to the students. Different methods of collecting the data has been used to collect the information about VLE. Analyzing the data and doing research about it helped of a better understanding about this topic. Collecting the primary data helped to get true information, honest students and saying the real problems of accessing this platform. I will recommend to students to use this platform of learning because even if the understanding is not clear from the first time there are many ways of making it clear by asking the lecturer or having the information in Moodle where can be accessed at any time.

This survey was successful and all the necessary data has been collected.

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Appendix 1

Student name: Roxana Madalina Ciubotariu

ID: 1914603

University survey about Virtual Learning Environment

Please complete the following questions or writing brief information in the space provide . Feel free to tell your opinion.

1. Are you familiar with virtual learning? (tick one)

Yes	No
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2. Do you think virtual learning is helpful? (tick one)

Yes	No
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3. How often do you access virtual learning? (tick one)

a) once a week	b) more than once a week	c) not at all
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4. In a percent from 1 to 10 how much you recommend to other students? (tick one)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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5. What is your age group? (tick one)

a)20 to 30	b) 30 to 40	c) 40 to 50
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6. Describe in few words what difficulties you face accessing the Moodle? (tell your opinion)

7.How do you think Moodle can improve? (tell your opinion)

8.Do you think Moodle is something you need ? (tick one)

Yes	No
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Thank you very much for your participation and helping me with my research .

Appendix 2

Questionare

1.Are you familiar with virtual learning enviroment?

Yes 15

No 0

2.Do you think virtual learning is helpful?

Yes 15

No 0

3.How often do you access Modle?

once a week

more than once 2

whenever needs 13

not at all

4. In a scale of 1 to 10 how much do you recommend VLE?

1	2	3	4	5
6	7-Jan	8-Feb	9-Jan	10-Nov

5. What is your age group?

5 pers 20 to 30	10 pers 30 to 40
40 to 50	about 50

6. What difficulties did you face accessing Modle?

I do not have any difficulties accessing Modle.

7. How do you think Modle can improve?

I don't think Modle need improve.

8. Do you think is something you need?

Yes 10	No 5
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