

# DIGITAL SKILLS AND RESEARCH METHODS

Corina-Adina Toma 1909117

Lecturer Balendran Kandasamy

Module code 4003

University of Wales Trinity Saint David

Topic Research report of the impact of VLE

Date 12 May 2020

## **Impact of Virtual Learning Environment**

This research is done to analyze the impact of Virtual Learning Environment- Moodle on students learning experience.

**Virtual Learning Environment** is an educational platform based on mixing traditional and modern methods, and , is the introduction of computers and the internet in the didactic platform.

There has always been a need to make learning resources more engaging and available on-line, but there is even more reason to look at ways of making material accessible to learners as they demand it (24/7) through an appropriate learning platform. It's just good practice. Add to that the impending requirement for Learning Providers to make a significant percentage of courses available on-line (FELTAG), it has become even more urgent for the independent sector especially, to look for suitable options and for colleges, in my opinion, to ensure that their VLE is being used in the way it has been designed, not as somewhere to 'store' scanned paper with internet access 'blocked'

without considering the outcome for learner experience. Might as well hand the paper to the learner or put it in the post.

The use of the VLE platform brings a contribution in improving the student experience. The platform is equipped with the necessary tools to help the students to learn the modules, has interactive videos, and it can be accessed from home.

Access to the VLE platform is based on student id. Platform has a complete package of information:

- E-mail for each student
- Publication of articles or books in the university library
- Access to the module
- Links to outside sources
- Links for submitting the assessments
- Possibility to verify the presence
- Courses calendar
- Help desks

- Download the necessary programs for learning.

The definition of **research** is the creation of a study on a specific topic by using specific methods. Research can be about anything, a disease, school study, food, drinks, life.

The data can be collected using:

- **Primary sources**
- **Secondary sources.**

Whether something is a primary or secondary source often depends upon the topic and its use.

A biology textbook would be considered a secondary source if in the field of biology, since it describes and interprets the science but makes no original contribution to it.

On the other hand, if the topic is science education and the history of textbooks, textbooks could be used as primary sources to look at how they have changed over time.

**Primary sources** refer by personally asking, observing, researching documents.

The primary sources are more accurate because it presents the first evidence about a person, a document, event, object, statical data.

The format of primary sources can be:

**Audio**—oral histories or memoirs, interviews, music

**Images**—photographs, film, videos, fine art

**Objects**—clothing (fashion or uniforms), pottery, tools, gravestones, inventions, memorabilia, weapons

**Statistics** — census data, weather records, population statistics

**Text**—letters, maps, diaries, laws, original documents, legal agreements, recipes, treaties, advertisements.

The primary data can be collected by phone, direct observation, interviews, written questionnaires, experiments, types of gathering management information.

**The advantages** of primary sources it is that:

- they are objective and relevant
- it give the control over the question and the way you present them

There are times when a certain research can be done only through the use of the primary sources.

**The disadvantages** are waste of time in collecting them, they are expensive, and, if the data can be collected elsewhere is good for saving resources.

**Secondary sources** refers to the reanalysis of a study done by someone else on :

- book reviews
- magazine articles
- History
- Criticisms
- Event.

Using the secondary source helps by testing the argument and reformulating an idea to be used.

For example, the book *University of Illinois, 1894-1904: The Shaping of the University* , published in 2000, could be used as a secondary source to learn about the UI around the turn of the twentieth century.

To use a secondary source you must search for the most recent published source and the most relevant to the subject of the study, studies published long ago need to be analyzed in detail because the purpose may be different.

**Advantages** are:

- Not wasteing resources
- The data comes from sources that small companies o not have access.

**Disadvantages** are:

- Is posibel to pay for access
- It may not be what you need
- It is difficult to find the necessary data.

Some of the reliable sources for secondary data ar:

- Mintel
- FAME
- National Statistics
- Ipsos MORI
- ISER

Whether you use primary or secondary source you have to be sure it is right for what you need,each method is different,each method has pros and

cons, you have to keep in mind that the data is representative and not is not bias.

When doing a research you have to take into account the ethics and the data protection.

**Ethics** is a set of moral principles on which a research is based. The purpose of ethics is to do good not bad, to protect the privacy and anonymity, offering the right to withdraw, the right to provide consensual information, not to use evasive methods, to minimize the risk of harming.

### **Ethical Considerations**

Ethical Considerations can be specified as one of the most important parts of the research. Dissertations may even be doomed to failure if this part is missing.

According to Bryman and Bell (2007), the following ten points represent the most important principles related to ethical considerations in dissertations:

1. Research participants should not be subjected to harm in any ways whatsoever.
2. Respect for the dignity of research participants should be prioritised.
3. Full consent should be obtained from the participants prior to the study.
4. The protection of the privacy of research participants has to be ensured.
5. Adequate level of confidentiality of the research data should be ensured.
6. Anonymity of individuals and organisations participating in the research has to be ensured.
7. Any deception or exaggeration about the aims and objectives of the research must be avoided.
8. Affiliations in any forms, sources of funding, as well as any possible conflicts of interests have to be declared.
9. Any type of communication in relation to the research should be done with honesty and transparency.

10. Any type of misleading information, as well as representation of primary data findings in a biased way must be avoided.

In order to address ethical considerations aspect of your dissertation in an effective manner, you will need to expand discussions of each of the following points to at least one paragraph:

1. Voluntary participation of respondents in the research is important. Moreover, participants have rights to withdraw from the study at any stage if they wish to do so.

2. Respondents should participate on the basis of informed consent. The principle of informed consent involves researchers providing sufficient information and assurances about taking part to allow individuals to understand the implications of participation and to reach a fully informed, considered and freely given decision about whether or not to do so, without the exercise of any pressure or coercion.[2]

3. The use of offensive, discriminatory, or other unacceptable language needs to be avoided in the formulation of Questionnaire/Interview/Focus group questions.

4. Privacy and anonymity of respondents is of paramount importance.

5. Acknowledgement of works of other authors used in any part of the dissertation with the use of Harvard/APA/Vancouver referencing system according to the Dissertation Handbook

6. Maintenance of the highest level of objectivity in discussions and analyses throughout the research

7. Adherence to Data Protection Act (1998) if you are studying in the UK

In studies that do not involve primary data collection, on the other hand, ethical issues are going to be limited to the points d) and e) above.

Most universities have their own Code of Ethical Practice. It is critically important for you to thoroughly adhere to this code in every aspect of your research and declare your adherence in ethical considerations part of your dissertation.

Data protection act from 2018 controls how Personal Data are used by the government, organization or businesses.

The use of personal data has strict rules such as:

- Not to be kept longer
- To ensure security
- Use properly for precise purposes
- Use correctly from a legal point of view and provide transparency
- Accurate, if necessary up to date.

**Protection of personal data or GDPR** is done to prevent identity theft, protection of sensitive data, media hacking.

In order to do a research you have to act correctly from a legal point of view, this way you avoid being sanctioned.

## Questionnaire

This questionnaire is designed to highlight the impact of VLE on students. Tick where your answer is.

1 It is not polite but in terms of age in which category you fall:

Under 20      4 persons

21-30          8 persons

31-40          8 persons

After 41       5 persons

2 To make a correct classification which is your gender?

Male          14 persons

Female 11 persons

3 The online library provide you the necessary help?

Definitely agree 5 persons

Mostly agree 3 persons

Neither agree nor disagree 4 persons

Mostly disagree 6 persons

Definitely disagree 7 persons

4 You used the support of the IT team?

Yes 12 persons

No 13 persons

5 The presentation of the modules gave you the necessary support?

Agree 18 persons

Disagree 3 persons

Neither agree or disagree 4 persons

6 How many times have you accessed the university page per week?

1-5 time 8 persons

|           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 6-10 time | 4 persons |
|-----------|-----------|

|            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| Not at all | 3 persons |
|------------|-----------|

|             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| When needed | 10 persons |
|-------------|------------|

7 Some of the reasons for accessing the university page could be:

|         |           |
|---------|-----------|
| Library | 2 persons |
|---------|-----------|

Checking the mail

Time table

|              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| Modul review | 3 persons |
|--------------|-----------|

|           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| IT suport | 5 persons |
|-----------|-----------|

Service desk

Accessing Teams

|                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| None of the above | 5 persons |
|-------------------|-----------|

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| All of the above | 10 persons |
|------------------|------------|

8 It is easy to access the moduls?

|       |            |
|-------|------------|
| Agree | 10 persons |
|-------|------------|

|          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| Disagree | 6 persons |
|----------|-----------|

|                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Neither agree or disagree | 9 persons |
|---------------------------|-----------|

9 From your point of view an improvement of the modules is necessary?

Agree 14 persons

Disagree 3 persons

Neither agree or disagree 8 persons

By asking 25 people this questionnaire was made to find the impact of VLE on students.

The conclusion of this study is that each person perceives the way of VLE differently.

Using a compact sample of questions, using age and gender the result is that most use VLE, the module page when it is needed.

Most of the time when it is accessed the subjects make a tour of the page to be up to date with everything.

Most subjects are willing to use online sources because they can find what they need more easily. Due to the complicated way of searching, ticking many boxes, most students avoid using the online library of the University.

The page is necessary , because the information reaches students faster, it can be accessed from home.

Most classes have a personal group where they inform each other about what's new from the module page of the University.

Accessing the modules is easy, but the page can be improved.

Using VLE is very useful because students who are absent from classes can access the online modules, and in this way the courses reach to them.

The help of the IT team plays an important role in the student's lives, because it helps them in recovering forgotten passwords, or to guide them in using the university page.





4G

18% 15:10



4) Is it hard to learn in other languages?

5) Other

4) Apply only for non-British persons.

~~Is it~~ ~~Do you~~ is hard to learn in other languages?

yes strongly agree

no Agree

neither agree or disagree

disagree

strongly disagree

5) ~~State~~ ~~you~~ what you learned in module  
will help you in the future?

Agree

neither ~~agree~~ agree or disagree

disagree.

6) Was hard for you to keep with the student  
life?

Agree

neither agree or disagree

disagree

7) How ~~old~~ old are you?

1) Under 20

2) 20-35

3) 35-50

4) 50 or more.

8) Besides attending classes, how much time  
do you spend at home for the module?

1) 1-2 hrs

2) 2-3 hrs

3) 3 hrs or more.





4G+



17% 15:10

CORINA - ADINA TOMA  
1909114

This questionnaire is made to evaluate the impact of Moodle (VLE) on students learning experience in the campus of London University.

~~What do you think about Moodle page?~~

1) Do you think the Moodle page have useful information?

~~yes~~ ~~no~~  
Strongly agree  
Agree  
neither agree nor disagree  
disagree  
Strongly disagree.

2) ~~The~~ You ~~seeing~~ log in on the university page for:

check the module  
Library  
Attendance  
check mail  
others

~~3) what is the country you are from?~~

3 which of the following best describes your ethnic origin?

- 1) British (white)
- 2) European (non-white)
- 3) European (white)
- 4) British (non-white)
- 5) other

4) Apply only for non-British persons.

~~Is it~~ ~~Do you~~ is hard to learn in other languages?

~~yes~~ Strongly agree  
~~no~~ Agree  
neither agree or disagree  
disagree  
Strongly disagree

## References

<https://fireflylearning.com/what-is-a-virtual-learning-environment-vle> accesse on 07 May 2020

<https://guides.library.harvard.edu/HistSciInfo/secondary> accesse on 07 May 2020

<https://www.library.illinois.edu/village/primarysource/mod1/pg2.htm> accesse on 07 May 2020

<https://sccollege.edu/Library/Pages/primarysources.aspx> accesse on 07 May 2020

<https://research-methodology.net/research-methodology/ethical-considerations/> accesse on 12 May 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/data-protection> accesse on 12 May 2020

<https://umb.libguides.com/PrimarySources/secondary> accesse on 12 May 2020

<https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en/blog/what-vle-virtual-learning-environment> accesse on 12 May 2020