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COURSE TITLE:

DIGITAL SKILLS AND RESEARCH METHODS

LECTURER:

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DATE:

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RESEARCH ON VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT: MOODLE (MODULAR OBJECT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT LEARNING ENVIRONMENT)

Research is a systematic detailed study of a subject, especially to discover any new information or reach a new understanding (Cambridge Dictionaries Online, 2003). Process of research includes any gathering of data, information and facts for the advancement of knowledge (Shuttleworth, 2008).

The term virtual learning is defined as “a synthetic, spatial (usually 3D) world seen from a first person point of view. The view in a virtual environment is under the real-time control of the user” (La Viola, Jr., K. et al, 2017, p. 8).

Due to the increase demand for education and training in the information age, online learning and teaching is becoming a necessity in our future.

The use of Microsoft Teams and Moodle (Modular Object Oriented Development Learning Environment) platforms has encouraged students to get more involved. This system in educational technology is a platform for the digital aspects of courses of study, usually within educational institutions. They present resources, activities and interactions within a course structure and provide for the different stages of assessment. In addition, for delivering learning materials to students via the web mostly, schools, colleges, universities and training providers as their classroom and also students' assessment, tracking and enhancing digital experience.

Digital technology has empowered these business platforms which has remove barriers of time and space and employing smart, sophisticated software tools that connect users more precisely, speedily and easily than ever before, are producing miraculous results and claiming a large and growing share of the economy in every region of the world today. Classrooms live online, mentoring and e-Learning all in one place.

The virtual environment is ultimately a simulation of the real-world environment where the inclusion of computer-controlled avatars and communication channels enhance immersion and educational capabilities through the creation of an interactive environment to enhance the learning experience (Eschenbrenner, N. & Siau, 2009).

ADVANTAGES

- a. Student works in a self-paced format which encourages them to take responsibility for their own learning. In virtual mode
- b. Controlled access to curriculum that has been mapped to elements that can be separately assessed and recorded
- c. Tracking student activity and achievement against these elements using simple processes for course administration and student tracking that make it possible for tutors to define and set up a course with accompanying materials and activities to direct, guide and monitor learner progress.
- d. Support of on-line learning, including access to learning resources, assessment and guidance.
- e. Communication between learners, tutors and other learning support specialists such as the information and technology department to provide direct support and feedback for learners.
- f. Links to other administrative systems, both in-house and externally

The rationale in using online learning environment is that, initially my experience was just restricted to web-based courses by accessing a web browser for learning, whereby the educational institution will e-mail pamphlets combined with questions relating to the particular topics to be resolved or answers. After all questions are answered they are mailed back through web-based sites.

Similarly, exams will be set online to be done at a particular given time after which the screen or monitor will give information of exact finishing time and then go blank that is the end of session very tedious and frustrating by then.

The use of Microsoft teams is a power application which has many tools built in to communicate virtually and very useful for educational institution, like schools, universities and training institutions for the delivering lectures, teachings and training remotely from distance. This application also have an embedded tool like classroom, to do class works instantly which is seen by both lecturer and student which allows the lecturer to give feedbacks to students. Teaching notes, assignments download and submissions, questions and answers instantly, live class presentations including instant general and personal messages to students and lecturers, organised group meetings by students can also perform on this platform.

The other most popular Virtual Learning Environment is the Moodle web-based learning platform for educational purpose which was introduced in 2001 by the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills for the inspection of services providing education and skills for learners of all ages (Ofsted, 2009). It was originally developed to help educators create online courses with a focus on interaction and collaborative construction of content.

These type of virtual learning environment from a distance; in other words, the participants are physically separated because instructions are provided to a person who is learning in a place and at a time different from that of the teachers and the other learners (Kehrwald, B. 2008. P 89-106).

My objectives now, with this learning environment has developed computers and smart mobile phones based technology by the introduction or embedded application software to connect people near and world-wide to communicate orally and visually through the use of internet connection. In addition, I have significantly improved my skills in digital technologies and research methods by searching and downloading secondary information and upload researched information to be process in detailed graph objects.

Moodle is been used by my University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus to conduct learning, alongside Microsoft teams is constantly accessed by students for the accessing of resources pertaining to our studies, also enables students to access the library where to obtain learning materials by reading online E-books, journals, browse and request for hard copy books, also download articles needed for studies and to access the London Student's Hall to get very useful information relating to our course of study, about various departments in the university and contact information, the use of Turnitin to submit completed assignment and date of submission.

Coming back to the research on virtual learning environment is based on the impact on the learners' achievement, have they intake or gained. Is their engagement shows any impact, or are they retaining the benefits while using this virtual world which has enabled me to draw up primary and secondary questionnaires to collect and gather information on this research.

There are two methods of data collection.

Primary sources: simply means do it yourself by getting the information needed either by asking people or doing observation. Normally, physical artefacts scientific data that has been collected but not yet interpreted also information collected from a very first-person accounts is reliable, documentations and also useful for current and future studies

Advantages

- a. Designing and controlling the questions solely, so you know and get exactly the information needed
- b. The information needed sometimes cannot be obtained in any other different way

Disadvantages

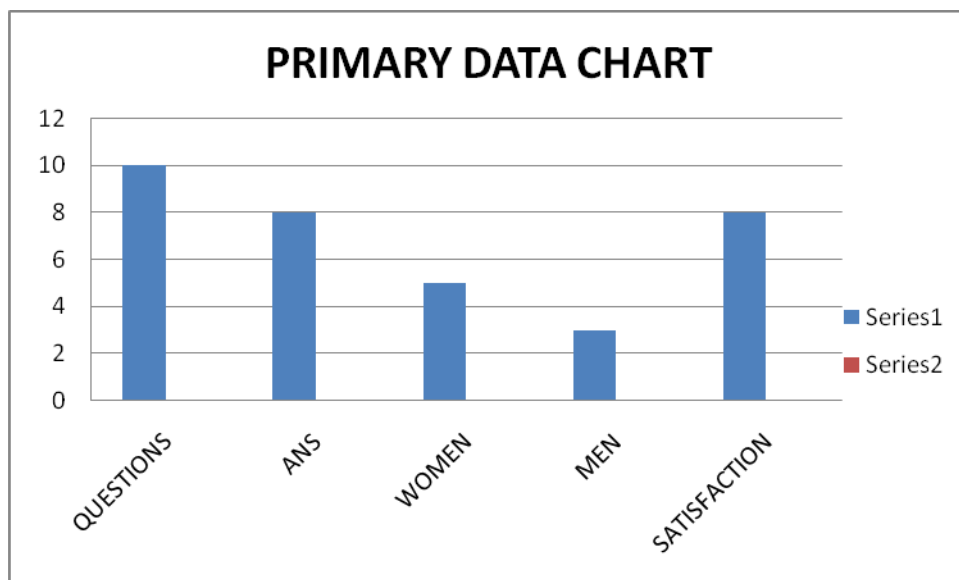
- a. It takes time to draw up and can be expensive
- b. If the data are available elsewhere, primary data collection is a poor use of resources

There are various formats of collecting information either by:

- a. Statistics — weather records, population count and country census.
- b. Images – films, videos and photographs.
- c. Audios – listening to oral histories or memoirs, music and interviews.
- d. Writings or texts – receipts, letters, legal agreements and diaries.
- e. Objects – gravestones and weapons.

This method of primary research was carried out in the form of an electronics survey, simply means by collecting of data by using electronic mails messages (emails), mobile short-messages, (MSM), Viber, chats, Whatsapp etc. (Naizaro, L. 2010).

E-questionnaire was sent to first year students group two at University Of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus invited to complete the survey. The survey was done during end of term tutorials and students were invited to complete it in their own time in class.



The above chart shows overall satisfaction of all students participated in the Virtual Learning Environment research for the learning and studying on Moodle platform.

Secondary sources: Use data already collected by somebody else for another purpose and less costly, time and effort also is being reused, usually in a different context.

Secondary data can be collected by these methods:

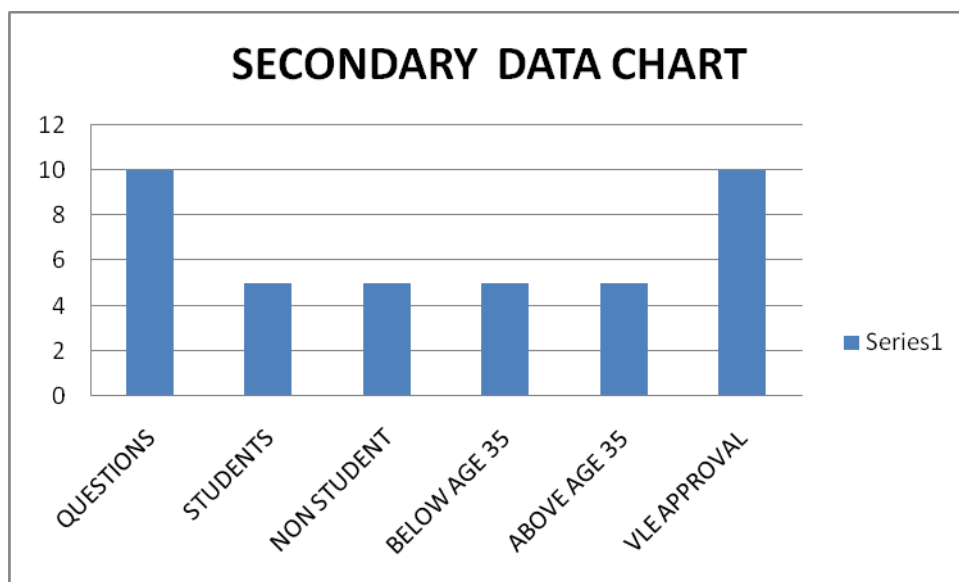
- a. Published sources, comprises of commercial bodies or institutions, government bodies, international, corporation and municipal bodies.
- b. Unpublished sources.

Advantages

- a. These are well well-designed surveys usually done by an individual or small company.
- b. The information collected be a better use of resources

Disadvantages

- a. Sometimes difficult to have exactly what you want.
- b. Accessing them at time might be costly if you have to pay.
- c. It can be difficult to find appropriate data because of the bulkiness and huge nature.



The chart above clearly shows total approval for the use of Virtual Learning Environment

According to my findings, I have learnt many more ways accessing these online learning tools because one can see, know or recognise and talk directly to each other at the same time while teachings or lecture is been delivered by lecturer and absorbed by respondents. Similarly, instant class work is seen and read after which feedback is given to students, and also perceive its usability in terms of the opportunities it can offer.

I have developed awareness of the importance of effective analysis of information and its translation into knowledge, although it is a virtual learning environment the job is been delivered but there are times the internet connections are not stable or even lost of signals so learning and researches can be very weary and challenging.

If I could analyse now, having learned and taught several times on this platform and the use of Moodle my understanding and skills has significantly developed about online learning experience because of my daily involvement throughout the term even though it was a daunting task undertaken for this course at this difficult global crisis era.

In addition to this findings report, the use of Moodle produces improvement in learning and motivation to learn as reported by in-class and general student participants. The findings will also be of serious interest to lecturers as they indicate areas for attention in promoting Virtual Learning Environment use to enhance learning. Students come to classes with a wide range of informal ideas and conceptions that often differ considerably from accepted learning views. Moodle has been used as a Learning Management System (LMS) platform for sharing useful information, documentation, and knowledge management in education and research projects and also, can serve as a teaching/pedagogical tool for students.

In conclusion, it is suggested that the use of a Virtual Learning Environment encourages independent learning, and that the use of it increases students' motivation to learn. This module, Digital And Research Methods Skills however, I have significantly developed my knowledge compared to previous less knowhow. I will pursue more researches to the end attaining my goals or objectives as a university graduate or degree holder from this University Of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus.

My recommendation is that Moodle (Modular Object Oriented Development Learning Environment), the development of which primarily relies on a strong pedagogical foundation creating a new trend to the education system (Katsamani, Retalis & Boloudakis, 2012). Today, most Learning Management Systems have inbuilt mechanisms to track and record a certain amount of information about online activities. The major roles for such an LMS include recordkeeping for student's learning, planning for student's learning, instruction for student's learning, and assessment for (and of) student's learning. The secondary roles include communication, general student data, school personnel information and LMS administration (Watson & Watson, 2007).

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RESEARCH ON VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

SECONDARY SOURCE QUESTIONNAIRE

I would like to ask you to complete this questionnaire which will help my academic work at my university (University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus) to understand how well students learning and studying needs are met by the use of Virtual Learning Environment. The information that you provide will help improve using learning through better provision of learning resources.

I hope that you will accurately complete this questionnaire with all possible thoughts, Thank you.

I agree that this information and the data collected from me may be held and processed by University of Wales Trinity Saint David London Campus for research purpose.

Sign Date 1/1/2021

Information about yourself

Name Gender Female Age 37

Please tick:

Student. **Non Student.**

Programme of study: Certificate Of Higher Education Skills for the Workplace

Module name: Digital Skills and Research Methods.

1. An article read said every home in England has Internet/network connection.

Yes No.

2. Government source has provided free laptops for all university students.

Yes No. **not sure**

3. Virtual Learning Environment is widely use currently. **True** or False.

VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

PRIMARY SOURCE QUESTIONNAIRE

Student Name: _____ Tanvir ahmed _____ Student ID:
____2009431_____

Module Name: Digital Skills and Research Methods Term 1 Group: 2 _____

Question 1: About using Moodle.

How useful is Moodle to you while studying? A. **Very useful.** B. Useful.
C. Not useful. D. Not sure.

Question 2: How often do you use Moodle during your study?

A. **Very often.** B. Less often. C. Not often. D. Not sure.

Question 3: Your experience in using this Moodle.

I am comfortable of using it.

A. **Agree.** B. Agree somehow. C. Unsure. D. Disagree somehow.
E. Disagree.

Question 4: I have been using it throughout my studies.

A. **Agree.** B. Agree somehow. C. Unsure. D. Disagree
somehow. E. Disagree.

Question 5: Do you use Moodle to access the Library?

Yes.

No.

Question 6: Do you use this tool to access Students' Hall?

Yes.

No.

VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

PRIMARY SOURCE QUESTIONNAIRE

Student Name: Tanvir Noor Student ID: 2009633

Module Name: Digital Skills and Research Methods Term 1 Group: 2

Question 1: About using Moodle.

How useful is Moodle to you while studying? A. Very useful. B. Useful.
C. Not useful. D. Not sure.

Question 2: How often do you use Moodle during your study?

A. Very often. B. Less often. C. Not often. D. Not sure.

Question 3: Your experience in using this Moodle.

I am comfortable of using it.

A. Agree. B. Agree somehow. C. Unsure. D. Disagree somehow.
E. Disagree.

Question 4: I have been using it throughout my studies.

A. Agree. B. Agree somehow. C. Unsure. D. Disagree somehow.
E. Disagree.

Question 5: Do you use Moodle to access the Library?

Yes.

No.

Question 6: Do you use this tool to access Students' Hall?

Yes.

No.

Search

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enidforde82@gmail.com

Marlie

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paul2posh@yahoo.co.uk

forestwood2@googlemail.com; remifi

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Completed Questionnaire



You replied on Fri 01/01/2021



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RE: VLE QUESTIONNAIRE



Willie Harding

Fri 01/01/2021 12:17

To: forestwood2@googlemail.com; remiforde@...
marliebarrie2002@yahoo.com; ELVERA COLE; George; Gorden



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Questionnaire ...

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Jesica Patricia Mora Mera (2010296)



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Amathurin87@yahoo.com



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VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

PRIMARY SOURCE QUESTIONNAIRE

Student Name: CHRISTINA DUMI Student ID: 1921342

Module Name: Digital Skills and Research Methods Term 1 Group: 2

Question 1: About using Moodle.

How useful is Moodle to you while studying? A. **Very useful.** B. Useful.
C. Not useful. D. Not sure.

Question 2: How often do you use Moodle during your study?

A. **Very often.** B. Less often. C. Not often. D. Not sure.

Question 3: Your experience in using this Moodle.

I am comfortable of using it.

A. **Agree.** B. Agree somehow. C. Unsure. D. Disagree somehow.
E. Disagree.

Question 4: I have been using it throughout my studies.

A. **Agree.** B. Agree somehow. C. Unsure. D. Disagree somehow.
E. Disagree.

Question 5: Do you use Moodle to access the Library?

Yes.

No.

Question 6: Do you use this tool to access Students' Hall?

Yes.

No.

Question 7: How often do you use this tool to access the library?

- A. Daily. B. Every other day. C. Twice a week. D. Once a week.
E. Less than a week. F. Occasionally.

Question 8: How often do you use Moodle to access Students' Hall?

- A. Daily. B. Every other day. C. Twice a week. D. Once a week.
E. Less than a week. F. Occasionally.

Question 9: Please fill in the missing word below.

I use A for my online lectures always.

- A. Microsoft Teams
B. Zoom
C. Telephone
D. Whatsapp

VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

PRIMARY SOURCE QUESTIONNAIRE

Student Name: Jessica Mora Student ID: 2010296
Module Name: Digital Skills and Research Methods Term 1 Group: 2

Question 1: About using Moodle.

How useful is Moodle to you while studying? A. Very useful. ☒ B. Useful.
C. Not useful. D. Not sure.

Question 2: How often do you use Moodle during your study?

☒ A. Very often. B. Less often. C. Not often. D. Not sure.

Question 3: Your experience in using this Moodle.

I am comfortable of using it.

A. Agree. ☒ B. Agree somehow. C. Unsure. D. Disagree somehow.
E. Disagree.

Question 4: I have been using it throughout my studies.

A. Agree. B. Agree somehow. ☒ C. Unsure. D. Disagree somehow.
E. Disagree.

Question 5: Do you use Moodle to access the Library?

☒ Yes.
No.

VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

PRIMARY SOURCE QUESTIONNAIRE

Student Name: ADESINA AJAO Student ID: _____
Module Name: Digital Skills and Research Methods Term 1 Group: 2

Question 1: About using Moodle.

How useful is Moodle to you while studying? A. Very useful. B. Useful.
C. Not useful. D. Not sure.

Question 2: How often do you use Moodle during your study?

A. Very often. B. Less often C. Not often. D. Not sure.

Question 3: Your experience in using this Moodle.

I am comfortable of using it.

A. Agree. B. Agree somehow. C. Unsure. D. Disagree somehow.
E. Disagree.

Question 4: I have been using it throughout my studies.

A. Agree. B. Agree somehow. C. Unsure. D. Disagree somehow.
E. Disagree.

Question 5: Do you use Moodle to access the Library?

Yes.

No.

Question 6: Do you use this tool to access Students' Hall?

Yes.

No.

Question 7: How often do you use this tool to access the library?

- A. Daily. B. Every other day. ☒ C. Twice a week. D. Once a week.
E. Less than a week. ☒ F. Occasionally.

Question 8: How often do you use Moodle to access Students' Hall?

- A. Daily. B. Every other day. ☒ C. Twice a week. D. Once a week.
E. Less than a week. F. Occasionally.

Question 9: Please fill in the missing word below.

I use----- for my online lectures always.

- A. Microsoft Teams ☒
B. Zoom
C. Telephone
D. Whatsapp