

USABILITY OF OPEN CONTENT INITIATIVES IN COMPUTER SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE LEARNING (CSCL) ACTIVITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION.

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Issues faced by content developer cum teachers:

1. Validity of content in websites is questionable unless origin of sources used is correctly cited.
2. Web based learning strategies, content development and internet pedagogical elements.
3. To ensure self access learning resources are reliable for our end users.
4. Challenges to abreast new technological skill such as web 2.0 applications.

MAIN CONCERN OF THE STUDY

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Is to find out :

- How teachers adapt and adopt to current need of 21st century learning environment.

CSCL

- Computer Support Collaborative Learning (CSCL)
CSCL is a field of study centrally concerned with meaning and the practices of meaning making in the context of joint activity, and the ways in which these practices are mediated through designed artifact (Koschmann, 2002).

Open Content Initiatives

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- Reuse - the right to reuse the content in its unaltered / verbatim form (e.g., make a backup copy of the content)
- Revise - the right to adapt, adjust, modify, or alter the content itself (e.g., translate the content into another language)
- Remix - the right to combine the original or revised content with other content to create something new (e.g., incorporate the content into a mashup)
- Redistribute - the right to share copies of the original content, your revisions, or your remixes with others (e.g., give a copy of the content to a friend. (David Wiley, 1998))

OBJECTIVES

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The objectives of the study are:

- to investigate the usability of open content initiatives elements in teaching and learning blog.
- to study the effect of social influence and collaborative activities in developing blog content.
- to group topics and media used in teaching and learning blog.

Research methodology

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Sample and procedures

- A number of 35 undergraduates of Bachelor of Education in Teaching English as Second Language (TESL) program participated in the study.
- The study was conducted as a project under the evaluation of teaching and learning tool in the subject of Computer and Technology in Education.

Procedures

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	Process	Duration/week				
		1 st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Learning Strategy	Face to face/Online	*	*	*	*	*
	Assign Task	*				
	Motivation/problem solving	*	*	*	*	*
	Developing media for teaching		*	*		
	Collaborative strategy		*			
Assignment	Create blog		*			
	Post topics		*	*	*	*
	Information skill	*				
	Online Collaboration		*	*	*	*
Data Collection	Survey & SWOT					*
	Content Analysis					*

Research methodology

Instruments

- Three instruments were design to collect data.
 1. Survey - to collect data on the level of usability of open content initiatives in blog, the effect of social influence and collaborative activities in blog, and self efficiency in using blog as a teaching and learning tool.
 2. Content analysis - group topics, media and open content initiatives used in the teaching and learning blog.
 3. SWOT analysis - student personal reflections towards using blog as a collaborative teaching and learning tool.

Findings: Types of cited resources

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Figure 1.
Unified Resource Locator (URL) cited below video

HOW TO TRY?

1. just click here www.mingoville.com/en.html (access on July, 31, 2010) and click again on "create an accaount"

2. there you will be given 4 choice of package: 1st 59.64USD for 12months, 2nd 35.94USD for 6 months, 3rd 23.97USD for 3 months and finally our personal favorite FREE kekeke! but of course you will lack some of the features that paid user had.

Here is the evident that we have tried the game before hahaha! Its online learning, all about learning. get yo kids in it or force them to hahaha!

Figure 2.
World Wide Web (WWW) address cited in topic posted with date of internet search.

Findings: Types of cited resources

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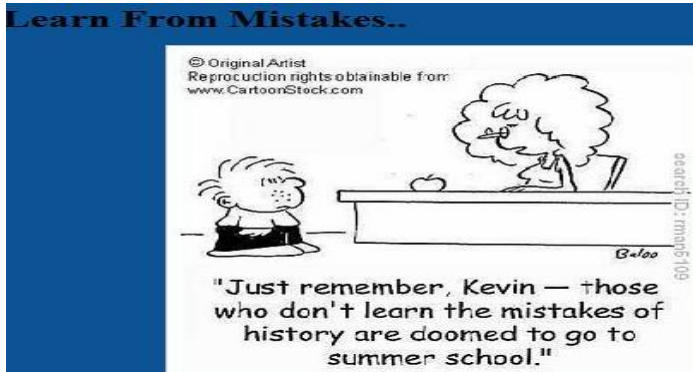


Figure 3.
Copyright and origin of internet source written on posted graphic.



Figure 4.
Hypertext Markup Language (HTTP) cited below topic posted includes date of internet search.

Findings : The effect of social influence and collaborative activities in developing blog content.

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Construct	Selected survey items	% agree
social influence and collaborative activities	read all comments in their blog	97.1
	make improvements based on online comments	85.7
	observed other blogs in making improvement	91.4
Self efficiency in blogging	could upload video and audio material	85.7
	provide useful educational links	82.9
	felt responsible to develop reliable learning materials (check spelling and grammar before posting articles)	91.4
Personalisation	adopt formal writing style	68.6
	could create own video and audio recording	54.3
	personalise their blog.	48.6

Findings: Media used in blogs

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Media used	%
pictures	34
Cartoon/illustration	24.6
Audio video	24.6
games	4.9
Mapping	3.3
Animation	1
Online survey	1
flashcard	1
Online dictionary	1
puzzle	1

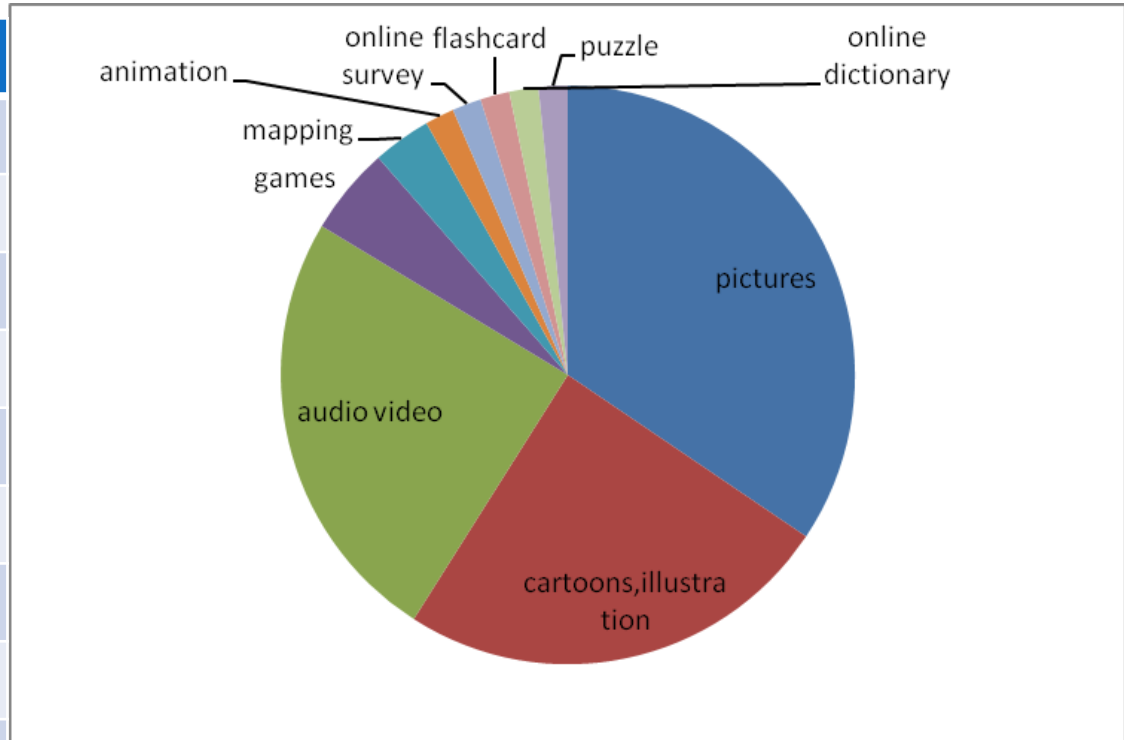


Diagram 1. Media used in blogs

Findings : Topic posted in blogs

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Topics	%
Grammar	25
Study skills	12.7
Quotes & Idioms	11.3
Critical thinking	11.3
Fun with English	5.6
Foreign Language	5.6
World history & News	4.2
computer	4.2
literature	4.2
Vocabulary, Web journal	2.8 each
Music, health, mathematics, learning style	1.4 each

Number of post

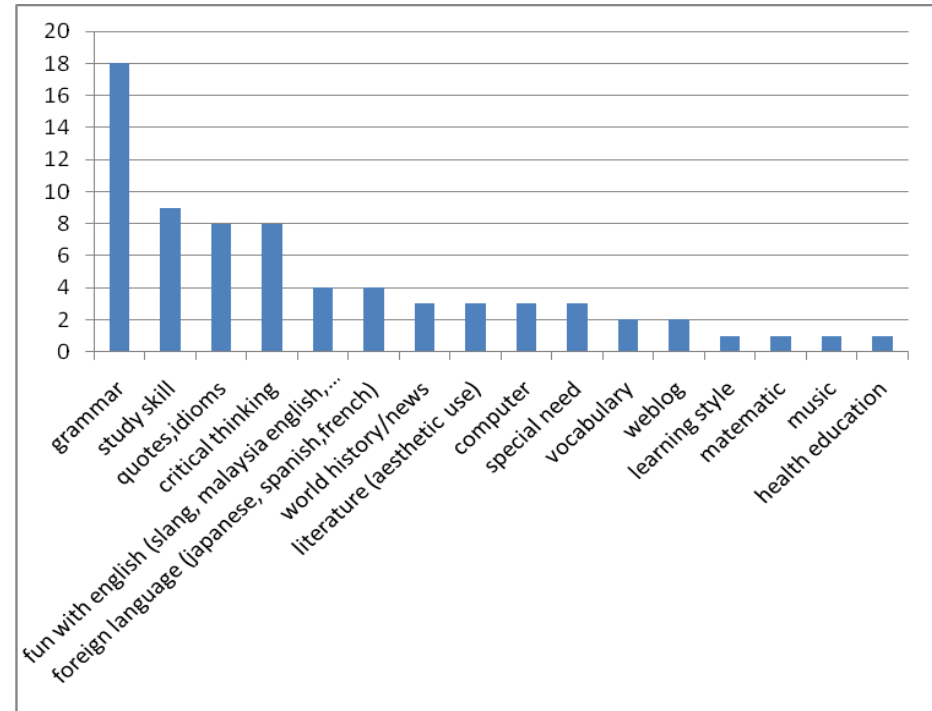


Diagram 2. Topics posted in blog

Conclusion

- The researcher found that validity and originality of contents in teaching and learning blog are still doubtful because correctly cited sources are moderately shown and used in these blogs.
- Students are not skillful technically to produce their own media for teaching and learning purposes in blogs. Most media used are of internet sources.
- Nevertheless findings of the study show that current students in higher education are ready to explore latest technology with minimum guidance from teacher.

Conclusion cont.

- Teachers need to motivate and provide well designed collaborative task guideline to ensure maximum learning experience for students.
- Some ICT issues such as internet connectivity, study workload and time management has yet to be solved in our educational environment.
- Future study is proposed to investigate the level of creativity and thinking skill of students in order to develop high quality of educational web content with genuine ideas, creative and informative.

Thank You

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