



A Shift from P-Content to E-Content – a Need of the Hour

* A. Pio Albina

* Assistant Professor in Mathematics, Alagappa University College of Education, Alagappa University, Karaikudi-630 003, Tamil Nadu.

ABSTRACT

E-content (Electronic content) or digital content is defined by those involved in creating, providing and distributing information as the digitized content, which is viewed on screen and not on paper. Contents that are produced and stored electronically rather than in print are the result of electronic publishing (e-publishing). E-content is not just learning but sharing, the content in the e-content is not static rather dynamic, it is anywhere and anytime learning, it has a global audience, the content to be delivered through the process of e-learning has certification, it is indeed dam cheap, the instructional design in e-content will be learner centric, it invites structured feedback, it is self paced, it can be used in real time and many time, it can present the content through multimedia presentation, it will have Scientific evaluation method, the content would be authentic, and it may have the provisions like interactivity, Book marking, white board, Hot spot, Hypertext and Hyperlinks etc.,

Keywords : P-content, E-content

INTRODUCTION

New information and communication technologies (ICT) are changing the world we live in, and the way we learn to live. ICT changes teaching and learning through its potential as a source of knowledge, a medium to transmit content, a means of interaction and dialogue. Thus, ICT is both a cause of change and a means of achieving it.

Advantages of a Paperless Education:

Schools, Colleges and Universities often promote the idea of environmental awareness, but the often excessive use of paper by these institutions, is itself harmful to the environment. Paperless education helps our environment. The advantage of eBooks are obvious, they save paper and money, eBooks are cheaper than often academic printed textbooks. If ordered from overseas, printed textbooks are also subjected to local import duties, increasing the price. eBooks can be simply downloaded, anywhere in the World. Only publishers and bookstores benefit from the need to purchase a printed textbook. Laptops are getting cheaper, and smaller. The affordability of a laptop means more students can afford one, and often for the price of several textbooks- you can purchase a reasonable laptop.

The future is online for most people, technology is getting cheaper. The current generation being educated for the future are internet savvy, and prefer MP3's to CD's, YouTube videos to DVD's, and in many cases eBooks to traditional books.

Creating a Paperless Classroom

1. Use textbooks that are in eBook form, and source materials relating to the material through the internet- much of this is free. You can supplement this material through YouTube, national geographic and other video resources.
2. Insist on homework and projects being written and created in word. This could be emailed, saved in a flash disk. Corrections can be made more easily, and each student could have their work in a PDF file- once the term is completed.
3. Powerpoints are the future, and they are getting more sophisticated. After teaching, students can store it for revision on their laptops.
4. Imaging, Charts, and diagrams are not done by hand

anymore- They are created on computers. Replacing the antiquated, time consuming method of creating these on a computer is common sense.

5. As the online community gets larger, digital art is replacing traditional art. Teaching students how to create digital art is way forward- often leading to a possible career or business for many artistic students.

E-content:

E-contents used in education can be from a number of sources: from traditional electronic journals (eJournals), and electronic books (eBooks) to more specific formats such as: electronic research reports (eResearch-reports), electronic lecture modules (eLecture-modules), electronic lecture notes (eLecture-notes), and electronic lecture slides (eLecture-slides).

Electronic content (eContent) or digital content is defined by those involved in creating, providing and distributing information as the digitised content, which is viewed on screen and not on paper. Contents that are produced and stored electronically rather than in print are the result of electronic publishing (e-publishing).

Are there compelling reasons why these in-print publications should be in electronic form? To answer this it is necessary to identify the advantages and disadvantages of printed content (pContent) and eContent.

According to Bonime and Pohlmann, (1998) eContents benefit from:

- hyperlinking - contents can be linked to other pages inside and outside the book;
- non-linearity - i.e. the order of access can be determined by users.
- addition of multimedia - i.e. content presentation is enhanced by mixing information type (i.e. sound, video and so on);
- data density - storage capacity is decreased while at the same time increasing portability;
- searching - the usefulness of the content is enhanced by the ability of the users to locate any piece of information,

or to access any section instantly.

Comparison of p-Content and e-Content:

A comparison of paper book and electronic book features (see Table 1) provided by Bonime and Pohlmann (1998) and Rawlins (1991) can be used as a guideline when considering the possibility of converting printed information to e-Content.

Table 1. Features comparison of p-Content and e-Content

Features	p-Content	e-Content
Tactile	Yes	No
Portable	Yes	Yes & No
Access without devices	Yes	No
Easy random access	No	Yes
Multiple access at one time	Yes	Yes
Customisable	No	Yes
Hyperlinks	No	Yes
Text	Yes	Yes
Pictures	Yes	Yes
Audio	No	Yes
Animation/video	No	Yes
Instant search facility	No	Yes
Easily and conveniently read	Yes	No
Easily damaged (i.e. tear)	Yes	No
Content updated easily	No	Yes
Go out of print	Yes	No
Highly interactive	No	Yes
Good legibility	Yes	No
Easily reproduced with the same quality	No	Yes

It is a well established fact that the process of e-learning is endowed with a lot of advantages, of which the same are not at all available in the human-enabled teaching and learning process. People enlist a lot of advantages and benefits of e-learning. Some of the important advantages of e-learning are; it is not just learning but sharing, the content in the e-content is not static rather dynamic, it is anywhere and anytime learning, it has a global audience, the content to be delivered through the process of e-learning has certification, it is indeed dam cheap, the instructional design in e-content will be learner centric, it invites structured feedback, it is self paced, it can be used in real time and many time, it can present the content through multimedia presentation, it will have Scientific evaluation method, the content would be authentic, and it may have the provisions like interactivity, Book marking, white board, Hot spot, Hypertext and Hyperlinks etc.,

Conclusion:

E-content generates excitement and enthusiasm. The teacher has to make a lot of modifications and adjustment if he has to adopt E-content. His role would have a different connotation compared to the traditional role. The teacher has to adopt a number of methods and techniques, he cannot be satisfied with the lecture or the chalk-talk method. The teacher has to be aware of the different available media and their availability. Students need E-guru to explain the wealth of information available on-line.

REFERENCES

- Mishra, Sanjaya, Sharma Ramesh C., (2005) Development of e-learning in India, University News, Vol.43No.11,p.9. | Shiratuddin, N., Hassan, S., & Landoni, M. (2003). A Usability Study for Promoting eContent in Higher Education. Educational Technology & Society, 6 (4), 112-124, Available at http://ifets.ieee.org/periodical/6_4/11.pdf | <http://ezinearticles.com/?How-to-Create-a-Paperless-Classroom&id> | <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~db=all~content> | <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40284748> | <http://www.springerlink.com/content/>