

LEARNING MANAGEMENT IN LIBRARY THROUGH MOODLE : A STUDY

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1. INTRODUCTION

Implications of Information Technology (IT) in the process of education and learning have changed the traditional learning systems to Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Teachers prefer to teach their students in a student centred model instead of traditional transmission model. Enormous growth of information, ready access to the internet has created possibilities for this. Teaching the students in a Virtual Learning Environment using a Learning Management System (LMS) can be more effective and qualitative. A Learning Management System can be advantageous in self study activities, extension activities and monitoring of student's achievement. So, Moodle is gaining its popularity both in eastern and western countries as a course management system in academic institutions and business organizations.

2. MOODLE: WHAT

Moodle is a web application that educators can use to create effective online learning sites. The word Moodle was originally an acronym for Modular Object- Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment, which is mostly useful to programmers and education theorist. It's also a verb that describes the process of lazily meandering through something, doing things as it occurs to you to do them, an enjoyable tinkering that often leads to insight and creativity. As such it applies both to the way Moodle was developed, and to the way a student or teacher might approach studying or teaching an online course. Moodle has features that allow it to scale to very large developments and hundreds of thousands of students, yet it can also be used for a primary schools or a university or business organization. Many institutions use it as their platform to conduct fully online courses, while some use it simply to augment face to face courses. Many users love to use the activity modules to build richly collaborative communities of learning around their subject matter, while others prefer to use Moodle as a way to deliver content to students and access learning using assignments and quizzes.

3. MOODLE: WHY

- *An easy way to communicate with students and staff where ever they are:* The news form automatically emails messages to all students and staff on the course. Forums can also be used to answer commonly asked questions – and prevent repeats, to provide a space for informal peer to peer student discussion or even online tutorials.
- *A quick way to share documents:* Moodle provides a place where you can easily create web pages with information about your course and provide links to word documents, slides, and other resources that your students will want to access.
- *Easy access to relevant and useful online resources:* The department and the university provide a wealth of materials and resources, but catering for so many different types of students it can be hard for learners to find those that are most relevant to them. You can use your Moodle to provide links directly to the resources that will be most useful for your students whether e-library

resources, skills courses, or information about nice pubs to visit in Oxford.

- *Online assignment handling:* When your students and tutors are not close to Oxford online assignment handling can save time and effort for everyone involved – whether it is just used for student submission with marking done on paper or the whole process is moved online saving time, postage and paper.
- *Save time and money:* Making resources available online can save time and money in photocopying.
- *Control access to different areas:* Can make a space for dispersed tutors to communicate with each other as well as students.
- *Designed to encourage collaborative learning:* Moodle makes it easy to model the oxford tutorial system online if you want to use it with globally distributed students.

4. INSTITUTIONS/ ORGANIZATIONS USING MOODLE

Over 1150 organizations in 81 countries had registered Moodle sites by December 2011 (<http://moodle.org/sites>). This number is growing by about 10% each month as educators and trainers learn the value of implementing open source Moodle.

Moodle is used as an ideal online learning solution for different schools, colleges, business organizations and governmental agencies;

- K-12 Schools
- Colleges
- Universities
- Governmental Agencies
- Businesses organizations
- Trade Associations
- Hospitals
- Libraries
- Employment Agencies etc.

5. COURSE MANAGEMENT FEATURES OF MOODLE

- **Assignment:** Used to assign online or offline tasks; learners can submit tasks in any file format (e.g. MS Office, PDF, image, a/v etc.).
- **Chat:** Allows real-time synchronous communication by learners.
- **Choice:** Instructors create a question and a number of choices for learners; results are posted for learners to view. Use this module to do quick surveys on subject matter.
- **Dialogue:** Allows for one-to-one asynchronous message exchange between instructor and learner, or learner to learner.
- **Forums:** Threaded discussion boards for asynchronous group exchange on shared subject matter. Participation in forums can be an integral part of the learning experience, helping students define and evolve their understanding of subject matter.
- **Resource:** The primary tool for bringing content into a course; may be plain text, uploaded files, links to the web, Wiki or Rich Text (Moodle has built-in text editors) or a bibliography type reference.
- **Survey:** This Moodle aids an instructor in making online classes more effective by offering a variety of surveys (COLLES, ATTLS), including critical incident sampling.
- **Workshop-** An activity for peer assessment of documents (Word, PP etc.) that students submit online. Participants can assess each other's project. Teacher makes final student assessment.
- **Glossary:** Create a glossary of terms used in a course. Has display format options including entry list, encyclopaedia, FAQ, dictionary style and more.
- **Journal:** Learners reflect record and revise ideas.
- **Label:** Add descriptions with images in any area of the course homepage.

- **Lesson:** Allows instructor to create and manage a set of linked "Pages". Each page can end with a question. The student chooses one answer from a set of answers and either goes forward, backward or stays in the same place in the lesson.
- **Quiz:** Create all the familiar forms of assessment including true-false, multiple choice, short answer, matching question, random questions, numerical questions, embedded answer questions with descriptive text.
- **Block:** A Block in Moodle is an item that a teacher can add to the left or right of a Moodle course page. They provide extra information or links to aid learning. Blocks are a bit like "widgets" elsewhere online and can contain for example, RSS news feeds, quiz results, a calendar, links to blogs, glossary terms or private files. There is also a simple HTML block which can be customized as the teacher wishes. A teacher can add blocks by turning on the editing and choosing from the "Add a block" drop down which is usually on the bottom right side of the course page. Blocks usually appear on the sides of a course.

6. INSTALLATION OF MOODLE

For installation of Moodle in any kind of educational and learning setup, one may require these following standards of H/w and S/w;

Hardware Requirement:

- 256 MB RAM (minimum), 512 MB RAM (recommended)
- 160 MB free Fixed Disk (more space will be needed depending on user uploads)
- Windows 98/ME (minimum)
- Windows NT/2000/XP (recommended)
- Install complete package process

Software Requirement: Moodle is primarily developed in Linux using Apache, MySQL and PHP (also sometimes known as the LAMP platform) the complete install package is a zip file that contains a web server called Apache, plus Moodle and Moodle's required MySQL database and PHP program.

There are three basic parts to the install process.

- Download and unpack the complete install package.
- Start the web server.
- Install Moodle using a web browser.

7. CONCLUSION

If your organization is ready or needs to support an online learning population, here is an opportunity to take your research to the next level. These Moodle sites are open for you to explore either as a learner, or teacher with course creator privileges.

8. REFERENCES

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