Teaching with technology. Danubius University case study

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Adapting to the requests of the "DIGITAL GENERATION"

- mobile phones

- computers connected to the Internet

- email

- instant messaging

- social networks

ICT implications in education:

- computer assisted learning

- e-learning

- online learning

- web based learning

- virtual learning

Web based learning in universities

- NOT only for distance learning but also for the one in the campus;

- EU 2005: 76% of the full time students use the internet in the course of organised learning;

- USA 2008: 4.6 million students took at least one class online, with 17% more than in the previous year.

- FROM face to face courses (teacher centred pedagogy) TO online and blended, hybrid courses (constructivist, collaborative student- centred pedagogy)

Learning Management Systems (LMS)

- management, delivery and tracking of online and blended learning

- Blackboard/WebCT, Moodle and Sakai

- from a sample of 5516 web sites:
  - 2981 (54,4%) apply Moodle
  - 2500 (43,32) apply Blackboard + WebCT
  - 45 (0,82%) apply Sakai.

Commercial VERSUS open-source

TYPE	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
COMMERCIAL SOFTWARE	• assurance of a professionally made product • upgrade during the entire period of exploitation	• cannot be modified by the user to meet their own necessities • the price can sometimes be very high
OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE	• free of charge • can be modified by the user	• necessitate a bigger effort from the user

Students and teacher satisfaction

- 75% of the students working with Blackboard and Moodle considered that Moodle was preferable - easier to use and more efficient;

- Out of 208 installations of Sakai, it has been indicated that 34 higher education institutions used Blackboard before:

    - Cambridge University;

    - University of California, Berkley;

    - University of Delaware;

    - Rice University;

    - Texas State University

    - others

Romanian e-learning portals examples

Blackboard:

– Blackboard Academic Suite platform (Suceava University);

Microsoft Learning Gateway:

– CFCID Portal (Babes Bolyai University of Cluj Napoca);

Moodle:

– Virtual Campus at the Polytechnic University of Timisoara;

– Educational Portal at the Technical University from Cluj;

– Online Courses at "Vasile Goldis" University from Arad;

– E-learning Platform at "Titu Maiorescu" University.

Sakai:

– Danubius Online at Danubius University of Galati

Danubius University Academic and Research Management System

- Student Management/Information Systems (UMS)
- research management (Kuali)
- Alumni platform (Alumni Channel)
- administrative management and communication (Google Apps – email, calendar, docs, sites)
- project Management (Deskaway)
- library management system (TinRead)
- course and exams schedule system (Mimosa)
- anti-plagiarism system (Ephorus)

- Journal management system (Open Journal System)
- Conference management system (Open Conference System)
- University Press Management (Open Harvester)
- e-learning platform (open source – Moodle or Sakai?)

Moodle VERSUS Sakai

MOODLE	SAKAI
• open source • free of charge • can be installed on any type of server • can function with different operation systems • PHP • offer the same basic facilities • unflexible • designed for all education categories	• open source • free of charge • can be installed on any type of server • can function with different operation systems • Java • offer the same basic facilities • very flexible • better adapted for the university's requirements • oriented towards the collaboration for education purposes as well as for projects of scientific research • project sites • portfolio sites

Danubius Online

- Why Sakai?
  - designed for universities
  - meets the requirements specific to using ICT in higher education
  - can be used in order to create Course Management Systems (CMS), a Learning Management system (LMS) or a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)
  - course sites, project sites, portofolio sites
  - can be exceeded by creating a collaboration portal between all the members of the university

Danubius Online
On-campus & Off-campus

- Sakai main tools:
  - *Syllabus*
  - *Resources*
  - *Grade-book*
  - *Assignments*
  - *Tests and Quizzes*
  - *Forums*
  - *Chat Room*

Danubius Online
On-campus & Off-campus

– *Announcement*

– *Glossary*

– *Web Content*

– *Messages*

– *Podcasts*

– *Pools*

– *Schedule*

– *Wiki*

Danubius Online

- Training Program
  - Staff:
    - Face to face training (practical courses)in every september
    - "Danubius Online Guide" (a project site containing a use directory, a forum of participants and a chat room)
  - Students:
    - Laboratory training (IT classes)
    - "Danubius Online Student's Guide" (a project site containing indications on the way to perform different online activities)

Danubius Online

- **MISI (*Sakai Multi- Institutional Survey Initiative*) 2010**:
  - *Description*:
    - multi institutional survey
    - 29 universities in different countries
    - all these universities use education and collaboration systems based on Sakai software
  - *Objectives*:
    - to receive an objective assessment regarding the way in which the students and teachers received the Danubius Online portal
    - compare ourselves with other universities using Sakai
    - to find out the opinion of the teachers and students regarding the use of ICT in their activities

Danubius Online

- **MISI Survey 2010**
  - *Questions* :
    - using ICT instruments in higher education, such as online collaboration tools or document sharing (for example Google Docs), online group calendars, instant messaging and chat systems, online transmission of audio and video recordings,
    - use of blogs and personal web sites,
    - online testing and examinations,
    - plagiarism prevention systems (for example Ephorus),
    - online surveys and others:

Danubius Online

- **MISI Survey 2010**:
  - *Results*:
    - 83% of the teachers and 85% of students agree
    - 5% of the teachers and 3% of the students expressed disagreement
    - 12% of the teachers and students declared neutral.
  - *Benefits of Danubius Online*:
    - possibility to access materials anytime and from any place
    - the improvement in the way both categories perform their activity
    - the possibility of a better management of the working time

Danubius Strategy for the Future

- Sakai 3.0 in 2012 (comprehensive database of online courses)
  - new content authoring and content management
  - integration with Google Apps and improved architecture
  - application of Social Networking facilities
  - better possibilities to adapt to the necessities
- OCW (migrate to open courses)
  - MIT concept of OpenCourseWare (OCW Consortium)
  - publishing scientific works with minimum expenses
  - possibility to immediately update and distribute materials
  - possibility of developing an online global community

Thank you!

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