

The Effect Of Blogs On E-Learning

Asan Baker Kanbar, Wafaa Mustafa Hameed

Abstract: In this study, a literature review was made in order to identify published articles on blogs and online learning pages. 68 articles related to blogging and content management systems have been studied in detail. Analysis of the articles showed that blogs are more successful when they are used effectively in social constructive learning models and blended learning. Sharing course content on blogs led to positive feedbacks was received and student's performances were improved. These results prove that blogs can be used effectively in the teaching-learning process as an e-learning tool. Based on these results it could be concluded that planned activities are lead to make blogs more effective in the educational field.

Index Terms: Template e-learning, CMS, blog, Content management system, online learning

1 INTRODUCTION

Recent advances in the Web have rapidly changed our life in various ways. These advances provide new ways for people to communicate on a global scale and assess vast amounts of information. The Web provides educators with opportunities to implement a range of new teaching and learning practices, which redefine classroom- learning experiences [1]. Web 2.0 technology has become an important trend that makes the world of the internet more effective than the programming technique. Tim O'Reilly describes Web 2.0 technology as building networks for more people to use networking effects [2]. By this way, Web 2.0 technologies can be defined as a next generation internet service where human computer interaction becomes more effective, more strongly systems communicate with each other, content design and classification can be made better. New programming techniques such as AJAX, JavaScript libraries, and more flexible user interfaces within Web 2.0 technologies [3] it is possible to create more effective web-based on-line learning environments. It can be said that Web 2.0 is an important tool for on line learning out of classes. Network logs (web log, blog) are personal or corporate web sites that can be created in a simple way without any programming knowledge, can be supported with text and visuals, can be commented on texts, and can chronologically archive texts. Network logs, one of the components of Web 2.0 technologies, have a great proposition that the Internet becomes a functional learning and sharing platform from a pool of information. The blogging process, which started in 1999 with Blogger's free blogging service, began to become more popular in 2003 when Google acquired the Blogger service. With the rapid development of Web 2.0 technology over the last decade, network logs are considered a transformation technology in e-learning [4]. In the beginning, the web logs used to write simple articles on the internet only; over time users can design their own interfaces and themes using additional attachment become a content management system (CMS) where specific content can be shared.

There are dozens of network log service that providers paid or free service on the Internet. Wordpress Blogger, Tumblr, Squarespace, Typepad, Livejournal are prominent blogging services provider [5]. Open source web-based CMSs such as WordPress, Drupal and Joomla enable users to use network logs on their own servers, and network logs are began to use more effectively. A research engine that scans web logs on the Internet Technorati made a research in 2010 stated that there are 8 million network logs that are actively used on the internet, 12,000 new net logs are created every day, and 10.800 net logs are updated every hour [6]. The Worldometers site, which provides real-time world statistics on the Internet, also indicates that around 250,000 weblogs are updated every day in the world. According to the builtwith.com site, which contains information on which software technologies are used in the infrastructure of the Internet sites, there are about 13 million CIS-Blogs on the internet as of January 2015 [7]. Statistics show that Wordpress especially has a high level of use. Paid or free learning Management tools that can easily be added to CMSs and network logs can be simple and more effective Learning management system [8]. Due to this simplicity and easy accessibility network logs can be seen one of the most important online learning environments.

2 METHODS

In this research, e-learning and network logs Studies are analyzed. It is aimed to determine whether there is a useful and effective structure that can be used in learning processes as an e-learning tool. This work thought to be useful for the planned works that will be done on e learning and network logs in the future, for this purpose the following questions were searched:

- What is the importance of using web logs in e-learning environments?
- What kind of results has been obtained in studies on network logs?
- In which learning models the use of blogging is more effective?
- What are the recommendations of researchers regarding the use of a blog on e-learning?

2.1 Information collection

Within the scope of this study, a field search was conducted in order to determine published articles about weblog and e-learning. In the first survey on the Web of Science database; ("Blog" or "Content Management System" or "CMS") and in the fields of computer science and educational research between 1999 and 2016, a total of 1053 studies were published in English and Turkish languages. In the study conducted, search results were narrowed in order to

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determine the articles published on the content management system and on-line learning and focused on the main topic. In the second survey, ("Content Management System" OR "CMS" OR "Blog") AND ("Online Learning" OR "E-Learning" OR "Distance Learning") and in the search for the same date range and area, A total of 68 works were published in and English Turkish language.

2.2 Information Analysis

A total of 68 articles about network logging and on-line use in structured field type scanning have been systematically analyzed. Each article; The year of publication, the country, the keywords, the purpose of the research, the method, the working group, the method of gathering the data, the data collection tools and the findings obtained and systematically coded.

3 RESULTS

As a result of the analysis; the first study on e-learning and blogging was conducted in 2005 and the work has been increasing since 2008. Looking at the distribution of 68 articles by country, it was seen that the most studies were done in the USA with 16 studies. In Turkey, 8 studies were carried out on the subject. The published articles were analyzed according to the key words and the articles were ranked respectively; E-learning, on-line learning, blog, social media, blended learning, web 2.0 keywords. It has been found out that the research methods used are mostly experimental designs, the studies are mostly directed towards undergraduate students, It was determined that the data collection methods were applied to the questionnaires and the experiments were performed and the data were gathered more qualitatively. Within the scope of the research, findings from 68 articles and other sources were grouped to answer four research problems.

a) What Is The Importance Of Using Web Logs In E-Learning Environments?

In this study the first research question was "What is the importance of using web logs in e-learning environments?" In a research conducted, environment whether networking logs were meaningful environments for e-learning environments for adults. It is stated that network logs can be significant factor, meaningful, richer and complementary learning environment. Participants emphasize positive changes in their everyday lives after using the blog, and emphasize that blogging is an important element of blog use [9]. Besides informal contributions of network logs can be regarded as an important tool for on-line learning through educational content arrangements. In the research; Network diaries are used as an interactive web-based environment, in which the instructors and students can communicate with each other in different disciplines like marketing and politics, Is an effective teaching tool which they can create interactive discussions among themselves and interact with content. This emphasizes the importance of network diaries in increasing communication with e-learning.

b) What Kind Of Results Has Been Obtained In Studies On Network Logs?

In this study the second research question was "What kind of results has been obtained in studies on network logs?" In the researches it found that the use of bloggings supported learning, developed socialization and collaborative learning

among students, increased students' awareness of technology, provided students to make personal explorations. The use of network diaries in education and the development of writing and discussion skills of learners and positive learning outcomes are obtained, positive effects in professional developments, social communication, ability to express oneself individually, effective tool for learning and encourage to learn, They find it convenient in terms of information management and communication requirements, which they can easily find and create better collaborative learning [4, 10-14]. Previous studies indicate that the use of blogging in education mostly has positive learning outcomes. Research indicates that students follow network logs for Personal impressions, participation in the community, comments and content. Student reasons for using blogs; o share lesson activities, to have a blog in the form of a newspaper in the scope of transferring personal information, to provide self-motivation and to make money. Academicians' reasons for using network logs; to continue the lesson, to explain academic applications, academic culture criticism, dissemination of research, career advice, personal reflection, publication of announcements, teaching suggestions. It is emphasized that network diaries are not as complex as Learning Management Systems (LMS), they have a simple and flexible structure, and that they are more easily adopted by teachers and learners. It is stated that the most important feature that separates the network logs from the LMS is that they are student-centered rather than course-centric like LMS, superior to reflective learning and social learning. [15].

c) In Which Learning Models The Use Of Blogging Is More Effective?

The third research question of the study was identified as "In which learning models the use of blogging is more effective?" The network logs; are effective in social constructivist learning environments and blended learning environments, the development of higher learning skills, Active and learning centered education, Authentic learning, relational thinking and interactive learning communities, and have Benefits for an interactive social learning environment[11], creating a social space outside school[16], also have Student-centered learning tools [16]. It is stated that easy-to-use network logs that encourage learners to assume an active role can be used as a useful tool especially in self-evaluation in educational fields. Results shows that every day network logs are rapidly growing sources of digital social communication.

d) What Are The Recommendations Of Researchers Regarding The Use Of A Blog On E-Learning?

The fourth question of this study "What are the recommendations of researchers regarding the use of a blog on e-learning?" Chang [15] conducted a survey on the use of blogging in the blended learning process; the most enjoyable experience for a teacher is to monitor how the students help each other on the web logs. Network logs have an effective teaching and learning potential when administered in an uncomplicated manner. In addition, network logs can be extended with the various other Web 2.0 applications to maximize teaching and learning opportunities. It should not be forgotten that teachers who consider using blogs in their lessons will encounter an increased administrative overhead. Teachers should ideally offer a structured and reliable framework. The most important point is that students are

guided correctly when reflective netlog applications are implemented in an educational environment. The use of blogging is recommended in many studies to improve the sense of community and cooperation. It is stated that it is important to adopt and encourage the success of network logs in education [18]. Yollis [19], a 25-year-old elementary school teacher in the United States, considers network logs as an environment that brings together teachers, students and their families. Yollis stated that the use of the web log in the class is inspired by the parents' informing meetings held at certain times during the school and that the teacher, the student and the family constantly communicate and share the communication. Families are proud of their learning and sharing. Students share what they learn and make comments. Families have the opportunity to participate in learning through comments.

4 CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATIONS

In this study, a field search was conducted to determine the role of network logs in e-learning. 68 articles related to the topic were systematically analyzed. As a result of the analysis, it has been found that the network logs are easy to use, have an effective teaching and learning potential, which improves the learning performance of the students. The use of network diaries for educational purpose has enabled learners to improve their writing and discussion skills and achieve positive learning outcomes, positive effect, social communication, ability to express oneself individually, and an important role in e-learning. Your network logs; blended and social constructivist learning models, it is seen that they are more successful when they are used effectively and that positive results are obtained when they are used for on-line supervision. Teachers who use blogs in education gain the ability to communicate better with their students [20]. In the direction of these results, it can be said that the network logs are an effective structure that can be used in the learning-teaching process as an on-line learning tool and play an important role in e-learning. In this context, it may be advisable to carry out planned studies in order to make more effective use of education in these environments.

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