

Exploring Innovative e-Learning Research Issues in Library and Information Science Fields

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Libraries have long been a primary resource used by instructors and learners to search and obtain learning resources. Although libraries are stores of valuable learning materials, their contributions to learning activities have not been acknowledged in the past. The rapid development of information and communication technology (ICT) in the e-Learning field necessitates the re-engineering of libraries to enable the delivery of library services that support efficient and effective e-Learning. The e-Learning with libraries' support should be fully discussed from three viewpoints including physical library, digital libraries/museums, and librarians. First of all, most readers served libraries as reading space, thus ignoring the principal property of libraries in supporting learning—rich book resources with excellent organization. Therefore, few evidential researches related to e-Learning supported by physical libraries were proposed. Furthermore, a digital library has powerful and efficient functionalities for content management (acquisition, storage, indexing, access, and maintenance), considerable metadata for content enrichment and structuring, as well as services for effective content searches, access, annotation, filtering, and dissemination. Due to the richness of structured digital collections, digital library services have been an essential component of a quality e-Learning system, and the growth in e-Learning, in which education is delivered and supported through computer networks, has also raised new research issues for library services. Although digital libraries have the potential to change significantly the fundamental aspects of the classroom in ways that can have an enormous

impact on teaching and learning, new pedagogical methods and easy-to-followed pedagogical procedures should accompany digital libraries as an emerging technology for education to reach the goals of formal, informal or life long education. Additionally, the goal for twenty-first century school librarianship in the United States and abroad has shifted toward more active involvement of librarians in student learning through teacher and librarian collaboration. However, the nature of this collaboration, including the process of collaboration, and the extent to which teachers and librarians working together improve teaching and learning, have yet to be fully explored. Particularly, few empirical studies have specifically examined the effectiveness of teacher and librarian collaboration.

Except for exploring the importance of e-Learning research in library and information science fields from different viewpoints, this talk also presents several innovative studies in relation to effectively e-Learning supported by physical libraries, digital archives/libraries, and librarians. Meanwhile, several potential research directions of e-Learning in library & information science fields have also been addressed in this talk. The talk aims at appealing that library and information science fields pay much attention to e-Learning research as well as encouraging much more scholars, who are interested in e-Learning research, to join this research field.