Students’ experiences of WebCT

A mini-dissertation by

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Supervisor: Prof AS Blignaut

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Summary

Students’ experiences of WebCT

Supervisor: Prof AS Blignaut
Faculty: Education
Department: Curriculum Studies
Degree: Magister Educationis

The purpose of the study is to explore students’ experiences of WebCT at the University of Pretoria. In order to find out about these experiences, the Department of Telematic Learning and Education Innovation administered a web-based survey to students at the University of Pretoria. At the end of each semester students are requested to complete WebCT Experience Survey voluntarily. The WebCT Experience Survey includes both qualitative and quantitative data for research (TLEI Annual Report, 2003). The focus of this research is more on qualitative data which includes the open-ended questions.

The researcher used conceptual analysis to evaluate the open-ended questions in the survey (Busch et al., 2005). The challenges and benefits were coded for their frequency and relevance. The researcher then identified codes to identify the benefits and challenges of students using WebCT. The findings of the research were grouped in terms of technical, facilitation and content issues. The study indicates that students benefited from using WebCT.

Key words: flexible learning, blended learning, distance education, web-based learning, WebCT, technology, communication tools, learning management system, challenges, benefits
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Thank you
List of Abbreviations

CAI
Computer Assisted Instruction

CIE
Computer-Integrated Education

CeLD
Centre for eLearning Development Information Services

CTDLC
Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium

IT
Information Technology

ICT
Information and Communication Technology

LMS
Learning Management System

OBE
Outcomes Based Education

PDF
Portable Document Format

TLEI
Telematic Learning and Education Innovation

UP
University of Pretoria

UCC
University College of the Cariboo

UW
University of Wollongong

WebCT
Web Course Tools
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