

Students' experiences of WebCT

A mini-dissertation by

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Summary

Students' experiences of WebCT

Supervisor: Prof AS Blignaut
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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

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements-----	i
Letter from ethics committee-----	ii
Table of contents-----	iii
List of tables-----	vi
List of figures-----	viii
List of addenda-----	ix
List of abbreviations-----	x
Summary-----	xi

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Introduction-----	1
1.2 Background of the study-----	1
1.3 Research Problem-----	2
1.4 Research questions-----	2
1.5 Importance of the study-----	2
1.6 Flexible learning-----	3
1.7 Limitations-----	6
1.8 Terminology-----	6
1.9 Division of chapters-----	7
1.10 Summary-----	8

Chapter 2: Literature Review

2.1 Introduction-----	9
2.2 Flexible learning model at the University of Pretoria-----	10
2.3 Rogers diffusion of innovation-----	11
2.4 Moore's theory of transactional distance-----	13
2.5 Gartner's hype cycle-----	14
2.6 Stages of adoption-----	16
2.7 Advantages of the web-based learning-----	17
2.8 Case studies-----	21

2.9	Cultural issues in online learning-----	25
2.10	Summary-----	26

Chapter 3: Research Methodology

3.1	Introduction-----	27
3.2	Aim of the research-----	27
3.3	Research methodology-----	27
3.4	Data collection method-----	29
3.5	Data collection-----	30
3.6	Summary-----	32

Chapter 4: Data Analysis

4.1	Introduction-----	33
4.2	Data capturing-----	33
4.3	Survey findings on benefits of using WebCT-----	35
4.3.1	Findings related to access-----	35
4.3.2	Findings related to convenience-----	36
4.3.3	Findings related to communication-----	37
4.3.4	Findings related to user interface-----	37
4.3.5	Findings related to computer skills-----	38
4.3.6	Findings related to downloads-----	39
4.4	Findings on challenges of using WebCT-----	40
4.4.1	Findings related to downloads-----	41
4.4.2	Findings related to information in WebCT-----	42
4.4.3	Findings related to hyperlinks in WebCT-----	43
4.4.4	Findings related to technical problems about the system-----	43
4.4.5	Findings related to feedback-----	44
4.4.6	Findings related to lecturer's facilitation of WebCT-----	45
4.4.7	Findings related to access to computers-----	46
4.5	Summary-----	47

Chapter 5: Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1	Introduction-----	49
5.2	Summary of Research Findings-----	49
5.2.1	Technical issues-----	50
5.2.2	Facilitation of Learning-----	51
5.2.3	Content issues-----	54
5.3	Limitations of the study-----	55
5.4	Recommendations-----	55
5.5	Summary-----	56
5.6	Areas of future research-----	56
	References-----	57

List of Figures

Figure 1.1	WebCT Communication tools -----	4
Figure 1.2	Division of Chapters-----	8
Figure 2.1	TLEI education model-----	11
Figure 2.2	Gartner's hype cycle-----	15
Figure 4.1	Results from the survey about benefits of WebCT-----	40
Figure 4.2	Results from the survey about challenges-----	47
Figure 5.1	Five stages of e-Learning-----	52

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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

List of Tables

Table 1.1	Terminology-----	6
Table 2.1	Distinction between early adopters and laggards-----	12
Table 2.2	Rogers's types of innovations-----	12
Table 2.3	Moore's model-----	13
Table 2.4	Gartner's hype cycle-----	14
Table 2.5	Stages of adoption-----	16
Table 2.6	Advantages of the web-----	18
Table 2.7	Models for online learning-----	19
Table 2.8	Benefits of using WebCT-----	20
Table 2.9	Areas of transformation-----	20
Table 2.10	University College of the Cariboo and University of Wollangong-----	22
Table 2.11	Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium problems-----	23
Table 2.12	Problems with WebCT-----	23
Table 2.13	WebCT at the University of Pretoria-----	24
Table 2.14	Cultural differences-----	25
Table 2.15	Issues in cross cultural audience-----	26
Table 3.1	Steps in conducting conceptual analysis-----	29
Table 3.2	Target population-----	30
Table 3.3	Data collection methods-----	31
Table 4.1	Types of coding-----	34
Table 4.2	Categories for benefits of using WebCT-----	35
Table 4.3	Responses related to access-----	36
Table 4.4	Responses related to convenience-----	36
Table 4.5	Responses related to communication-----	37
Table 4.6	Responses related to user interface-----	38
Table 4.7	Responses related to computer skills-----	38
Table 4.8	Responses related to Downloads-----	39
Table 4.9	Categories for challenges of using WebCT-----	41
Table 4.10	Responses related to downloads-----	42
Table 4.11	Responses related to information-----	42
Table 4.12	Responses related to hyperlinks-----	43
Table 4.13	Responses related to technical problems-----	44
Table 4.14	Responses related to feedback from the lecturer-----	44

Table 4.15	Responses related to lecturer-----	45
Table 4.16	Responses related to access-----	46
Table 5.1	Aspects regarding technical problems-----	51
Table 5.2	Salmon's stages of e-Learning-----	53
Table 5.3	Motivation theory-----	54
Table 5.4	Aspects regarding content-----	54

List of Addenda

WebCT Experience Survey (TLEI) -----	Addendum A
Categories and codes for benefits of using WebCT-----	Addendum B
Categories and codes for challenges of using WebCT-----	Addendum C