

INTERACTIVE TOOLS FOR DISTANCE LEARNING

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One of the innovations in the organization of vocational education is the introduction of distance learning. The idea of distance learning is that the interaction between the teacher and the student takes place in a virtual space.

Distance learning is a set of technologies that provide students with the bulk of educational material, interactive interaction of students and teachers in the learning process, giving students the opportunity to work independently with educational materials, as well as in the learning process.

The present days can be called the era of computer science and telecommunications. This is an era of communication, transferring of information and knowledge. Education and work, today, these two words have become synonymous: professional knowledge is aging very quickly, so their constant improvement is necessary.

The world telecommunication infrastructure enables creation of systems of mass continuous self-study, general information exchange, irrespective of time and space zones. Distance learning entered the 21st century as the most effective system of training and continuous support for high-level specialists.

In the 21st century, the availability of computers and the Internet has made the spread of distance learning even easier and faster. The Internet has become a huge breakthrough, much larger than radio and television. Different methods of providing educational information can be used in distance learning, namely radio, television, audio / video broadcasts, audio / videoconferences, E-Learning / online learning, Internet conferences, Internet broadcasts.

Many large companies are setting up distance learning centers in their structure to standardize, make it cheap errand to improve the quality of their training. Virtually no one modern company can live without it. For example, Microsoft has created a large training portal to train its employees, users or customers of its software development products. Distance learning applies on the special form of studies (next to full-time, evening, correspondence, external).

The use of distance learning technologies allows:

- bringing down charges on realization of studies (it does not need charges on the lease of apartments, journeys to the place of studies, both students and teachers and other);
- conduct the studies of plenty of people;
- improving quality studies due to application of modern facilities, digital library and other;

- creating the uniform educational environment (especially for corporate studies).

Distance learning is playing an increasing role in modernizing education.

Distance learning via computer telecommunications has such forms of training:

✓ Chat sessions – training sessions that are conducted using chat technologies. Chat sessions are synchronous, meaning all participants have instant access to the chat. Many remote educational establishments have a chat-school, where the activities of remote teachers and students are organized with the help of chat rooms.

✓ Web-based classes – distance learning, conferences, seminars, business games, labs, workshops and other forms of telecommunication training and other “World Wide Web capabilities”. Web-based classes use specialized web-based educational forums – a form of user activity on a particular topic or issue with the help of records that remain on one of the sites with the program installed on it. Web forums differ from chat sessions by the possibility of longer (multi-day) work and the asynchronous nature of interaction between students and teachers.

✓ Teleconferences are conducted using e-mail. They are forms of distance learning during which study materials are mailed to the regions.

Distance learning is able to provide continuous educational growth of personality. Distance learning, in essence, is a personal-oriented form of learning. It provides the opportunity to choose a teacher, the ability to select educational material depending on the information needs of students. In contrast to the correspondence form, distance learning communication tools are as fast as possible, the training programs and courses are flexible and individual.

Distance learning is developing at a tremendous pace, and this is facilitated by the development of the Internet and the growth of its information and communication capabilities. However, distance technologies implemented in the educational process require more careful elaboration of learning methods, analysis of factors priorities that influence the effectiveness of teachers and students in the distance environment.

In recent years, a new type of organizational structure for distance university education, called the university consortium, has developed. Distance education services are provided by a special organization that brings together and coordinates the activities of several universities. The Consortium of Universities offers a range of courses developed at different universities, ranging from basic courses to uppercourses.

Most likely, distance learning becomes an alternative to the correspondence form of study, but it is devoid of its disadvantages (interruption of the educational process, lack of constant feedback, lack of access to library funds).

Distance learning opens students’ access to non-traditional sources of information, increases the efficiency of independent work, gives completely new opportunities for creativity, finding and consolidation of different

professional skills, and allows teachers to implement fundamentally new forms and methods of learning using conceptual and mathematical modeling of phenomena and processes.

The distance education system can and should take its place in the education system, because if it is properly organized, it can provide qualitative education that meets the requirements of contemporary society.