

Distance Learning through Mobile Devices – Some Problems and Applications*

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Abstract: *The paper discusses specific features of mobile learning (m-Learning, – portability, location awareness, and ubiquitous access of information, as well as the impact of these features in development of distance learning courses. Two m-Learning applications are briefly discussed in order to formulate some conclusions about mLearning applicability, specifics and trends.*

Keywords: *e-Learning, m-Learning, hoarding, context.*

Introduction

Mobile learning is an emerging sub-field of eLearning, delivered through mobile devices. Usually, under “mobile devices” we understand a PDA or a mobile phone, but should not be limited to these. In the last few years, *e-Learning* is steadily making its way to more and more classrooms, becoming a common educational tool. With the increasing use of wireless technologies, new ways to enrich the learning environment and student experiences are emerging. Handheld and mobile devices (laptops, PDA devices, cell-phones), i-pods, TiVo boxes (TiVo automatically finds and digitally records up to 300 hours of programming), and variety of other common (ubiquitous) gadgets are finding their way to the “classroom” and contribute to enrich the regular curriculum. With those technologies, we are getting closer to achieve the “anytime, anywhere, anyhow” slogan of ubiquitous e-Learning.

In this paper we focus on some specific features of mobile learning, namely – portability, location awareness, and ubiquitous access of information, as well as how these features are currently applied for developing mobile courses. We will discuss two different approaches in current development – adapting already existing courses for mobile use and developing mobile applications for just in time (and place) learning.

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