

Strategies for Developing an e-Learning Curriculum for Library and Information Science (LIS) Schools in the Muslim World

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Abstract: The emergence of information and communication technologies (ICTs), particularly the Internet and other related technologies have brought about a fundamental and dramatic shift in the global educational system, which is changing by the day. This shift has manifested in the form of e-learning where ICTs such as the computer, the Internet and intranet, CD-ROMS are used as tools for teaching and learning. Thus, e-learning has become an integral part of the 21st century education and training which is adopted by different institutions. The paper discusses the concepts of e-learning and curriculum development. It also addresses the critical needs for developing an e-learning curriculum for LIS Schools in the Muslim World. The discussion is rooted within the perspectives of the benefits of developing an e-learning curriculum that will provide widening accessibility to LIS education in the Muslim world; enhancing the quality of those programmes provided; as well as the cost effectiveness of the e-learning programmes. Additionally, it presented the strategies for developing an appropriate e-learning curriculum for the LIS Schools in the Muslim World. The paper equally discusses the challenges that could likely serve as stumbling block to such curriculum development strategy. It suggests as well, the potential solutions to such challenges. The paper concludes that e-learning has come to stay, and that all efforts must be made by LIS Schools in the Muslim world to ensure its full acceptance and adoption, if they are to become key players in the 21st century LIS education arena.

Keywords: e-Learning, Curriculum Development, LIS Schools, Strategies, Muslim World.

Introduction

The emergence and rapid development in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), particularly the Internet and other related technologies have brought about a fundamental and dramatic shift in the global educational system. This fundamental shift has manifested in the form of e-learning where ICTs such as the computer, the Internet and Intranet, CD-ROMs are used as tools for teaching and learning. E-learning nowadays has become essential and it is implemented in every field from Space to Government. Thus, the new trend of communication technology has also impacted e-learning in education including the Library and Information Science field (Bhabal, 2008). In the field of education in general, it has made a tremendous impact in the way and manner research is conducted (Abubakar, 2011). In addition, Panahon II (2007) noted that e-learning has assumed an increasing importance in the 21st century education system within and outside school environment. Consequently, according to him new technologies such as the Internet and videoconferencing have made e-learning either as an effective complement or a substitute to conventional classroom learning processes.

