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Welcome to Volume 20 Number 2 of TOJDE,

There are 13 articles and 2 book reviews in April 2019 issue. 32 authors write the articles from 11 different countries. These countries are Australia, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Iran, Morocco, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Spain, South Africa and Turkey.

COMPARATIVE STUDY SPOC VS. MOOC FOR SOCIO-TECHNICAL CONTENTS FROM USABILITY AND USER SATISFACTION is the title of 1st article. The first article written by Giovani Lemos de CARVALHO JUNIOR, Daniel Cebrian ROBLES, Manuel Cebrian de la Serna, Manuela Raposo RIVAS. In the study, the authors aim to upgrade guidelines for the conversion of SPOCs into MOOCs, by exploring usability and satisfaction in both formats. The study shows that both formats present significantly lower dropout rates and higher completion rates compared to those generally observed in free enrollment courses.

The 2nd article is written by Klaus D. STILLER and Regine BACHMAIER, USING STUDY TIMES FOR IDENTIFYING TYPES OF LEARNERS IN A DISTANCE TRAINING FOR TRAINEE TEACHER is the title of the article. The study explores the extent that learner characteristics and skills determine learning outcomes and to elaborate predictive models of performance. The findings indicate that study time is indicative of problematic students that could be targets for interventions.

The title of the 3rd article is THE ROLE OF SOCIAL NETWORKS IN SUPPORTING COLLABORATIVE E-LEARNING BASED ON CONNECTIVISM THEORY AMONG STUDENTS OF PRINCESS NOURAH BINT ABDULRAHMAN UNIVERSITY (PNU). Hanan A. ALZAIN is the author. In the study, the author identifies the role of social networks (Google and Edmodo) in supporting collaborative e-learning based on Connectivism Theory from the perspective of the students of PNU. The result of this study shows that Google and Edmodo have positive impact on supporting collaborative e-learning.

USING BLENDED LEARNING IN POSTGRADUATE APPLIED STATISTICS PROGRAMS is title of the 4th article, written by Jahar BHOWMIK, Denny MEYER and Brian PHILLIPS. The study describes the medium impact blended learning model adopted in the courses and the feedback received from students during recent study periods. The study suggests that appropriate choice, integration and balance of different instructional methods, using a combination of technologies and pedagogies, are important in statistical education, especially for part-time mature aged postgraduate students. Prior experience in teaching the traditional course and familiarity with technology can help teachers in achieving success in a blended learning model of delivery.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACADEMICS’ E-READINESS QUESTIONNAIRE (ARQ) FOR MEDICAL UNIVERSITIES is the title of 5th article. Nahid ZARIFSANAIEY, Seyede Shima KARANJAM, Mohammad Hossein KAVEH and Manoosh MEHRABI are the authors. The study assesses readiness of academics for implementation of e-learning program by using questionnaire. The results of the implementation of the questionnaire show a significant relationship between e-learning knowledge and participants’ position in the university, as the professors and students have higher levels of this knowledge compared to the university employees.
Christopher M. OWUSU-ANSAH, Anonio da Silva RODRIGUES and Thomas B. van der WALT are authors of the 6th article. INTEGRATING DIGITAL LIBRARIES INTO DISTANCE EDUCATION: A REVIEW OF MODELS, ROLES, AND STRATEGIES is a title of the study, examined ongoing efforts by academic libraries to integrate digital resources into distance education courses. The results of the study indicate that academic libraries must pragmatically integrate digital libraries into the distance education curriculum by highlighting the role of digital libraries in the academic community and her processes. In this way, digital libraries may not be perceived as just content providers, but as significant agents of transformative learning.

The title of the 7th article is DISTANCE EDUCATION AND VOCABULARY PODCASTING TASKS: ATTITUDE IN FOCUS, written by Ataeh ELEKAEI, Hossein Heidari TABRIZI, and Azizeh CHALAK. The experimental study investigates the long-term effects of the treatment as the main part of the work in an E-learning project. The study explores whether attitude significantly affects Iranian EFL learners’ vocabulary gain and retention applying audio podcasts plus still pictures and audio podcasts plus animated pictures in an E-learning context. The findings of the present study indicate that attitude level significantly affects Iranian EFL learners’ vocabulary gain as well as retention.

DO SOCIAL STUDENTS USE SOCIAL MEDIA MORE OFTEN is title of the 8th article, written by Ahmet KESICI. This mixed-method study investigates the change in the sociability levels of high school students depending on the frequency of their using social media and to investigate their social media uses. The study reports that the social media uses of the students who often used social media reflect their sociability traits.

The title of the 9th article is UNDERSTANDINGS OF EXPLORATORY SEARCH FOR EDUCATIONAL SEARCH ENGINE. The authors of this study are Kamal El GUEMMAT and Sara OUAHABI. The study explores what is considered to be deep connection between exploratory search and educational search engine since they are two complementary subjects. The results of the study highlight the importance of learning and investigation of knowledge in exploratory search for educational search engine and give other perspectives to improve this practice.

The 10th article is written by Dewi PADMO, Olivia IDRUS, and Lidwina Sri ARDIASIH. THE UTILIZATION OF MOBILE DEVICES FOR IMPROVING ACCESS TO ONLINE LEARNING FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION’S STUDENTS is the title of the article. This study explores the types of the mobile devices that are used by students, the types of learning and information accessed through mobile devices, the time used to access learning through mobile devices, the degree of students’ satisfaction in using the mobile devices for learning, and the effectiveness of using mobile devices for learning. The results of this research shows that the utilization of mobile devices, especially in the use of smartphones to access UT’s online learning, seems to have great potential.

THE PROSPECTS AND CONSTRAINTS OF INTEGRATING SOCIAL MEDIA INTO THE NIGERIAN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM: STUDENTS’ AND LECTURERS’ PERSPECTIVES is the title of 11th article, written by Kwase Audu DOGARI and Oberiri Destiny APUKE. This qualitative study reports students’ and lecturers’ perspectives on the formal integration of social media platforms into the Nigerian university educational system. The results revealed that social media has become very popular among students and might be valuable instruments for teaching as they promote collaborative and cooperative learning among students and lecturers. Yet, issues of security, poor network,
distractive tendencies, and addiction beyond academic walls pose challenges to social media use in higher education.

The title of the 12th article is THE EFFECTIVENESS OF E-LEARNING ENVIRONMENT IN DEVELOPING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND THE ATTITUDE TO LEARN ENGLISH AMONG PRIMARY STUDENTS. Afaf M. ALJASER are the author of the article. The aim of the study is to identify the effectiveness of e-learning environment in developing academic achievement and the attitude towards learning English among the 5th grade primary students. The finding of the study revealed that there were statistically significant differences in favor of the experimental group in both the post-achievement test and English learning attitude scale.

THE EVALUATION OF LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS BY USING FUZZY AHP, FUZZY TOPSIS AND AN INTEGRATED METHOD: A CASE STUDY is the 13th title of the article. Yasemin Altun TURKER, Kasim BAYNAL and Turgay TURKER are the authors of the article. This comparative study evaluates Fuzzy AHP (Analytic Hierarchy Process) and Fuzzy TOPSIS (Technique for Order Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution) methods. The findings of the study indicate that the most important criteria for selecting LMS alternatives was found Content Management and Development (96.3%) and between the alternatives Moodle was found the best alternative with the degree of 36.3%.

There are two book reviews in this issue. MOBILE TECHNOLOGIES AND AUGMENTED REALITY IN OPEN EDUCATION is the title of the 1st book. The editors of this book are Gulsun KURUBACAK and Hakan ALTINPULLUK. The reviewer is Hakan KILINC.

Other book’s title is EXTRAMURAL ENGLISH IN TEACHING AND LEARNING: FROM THEORY AND RESEARCH TO PRACTICE. Pia SUNDQVIST and Liss Kerstin SYLVEN are the authors of this book. Ismail YAMAN and Mustafa SAHIN are the reviewers.

Hope to meet you in the next issue of TOJDE.
Cordially,

Dr. T. Volkan YUZER
Editor-in-Chief