Trendspotting -- Information Technology for Learning

Gail Persily
Assistant Director, Informatics Education
Library & Center for Knowledge Management
University of California San Francisco

Three Parts

- Trends in Education & Technology
- Applications of Technology for Learning
- Impact on Libraries and our Role as Trendspotters

Two Really Big Trends

1. Demand for flexible access to education
   - Distance learning
   - eLearning companies
   - For-profit universities
Two Really Big Trends

2. The “technological imperative”
   - Revenue potential
   - Student expectations
   - Online board exams

Trends in Education

- Active learning
- Outcomes assessment
- Lifelong learning

Education Trends & Technology

- Active learners need access to information and communication tools
- New learning outcomes measure problem-solving skills, information literacy
- Lifelong learners need skills to acquire new knowledge throughout their careers
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Trends in Technology
- Implementation practices
- Faculty development and support
- Combining modalities
- Learning environments

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More Trends in Technology
- Integration and personalization
  - Portals
  - PDAs
- Pendulum swing?

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Applications of Technology
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**Applications of Technology for Learning**

- Stand-alone applications
  - Interactive multimedia, simulations, virtual environments
- Digital library collections
- Distance Learning tools
- Web-based course environments

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**Stand-alone applications**

- Interactive multimedia
  - Multimedia tutorials
  - Interactive clinical cases
- Simulations
- Virtual environments

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**Digital Library Collections**

- Online textbooks
  - Harrison’s Online, MIT Biology Textbook
- Online journals
- Integrated information resources
  - MD Consult, SKOLAR
- Image/multimedia collections
  - University of Utah’s multimedia catalog
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“Distance Learning”

- Teleconferencing
- Streaming video
- Web-based course delivery
- Not just for distant learners

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Web-based course environments

- 5 year old application
- Supplement classroom teaching
- Provide stand-alone distance learning
- Examples: WebCT, Blackboard, TopClass, eCollege

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Web-based course environments

- Communication tools
  - Discussion forums, Chat
  - Assignment “drop box”
  - Calendar
- Content tools
- Assessment tools
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Trends in web-based course environments

- Becoming ubiquitous
- Content delivery business
- Move toward campus portals

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Impact on Libraries and Our Role

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Information Technology for Learning

- To learn = to acquire knowledge
- Library as learning environment
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Impact: New demands
- High expectations
- New programs
- New users
- New access issues
- New demands on library collections

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Infrastructure and service
- Continue to build digital collections
- Integrate
  - Link instructional and information resources
  - Provide single login to systems

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Infrastructure and service
- Faculty development
- Tech support
- Copyright and Intellectual Property expertise
Information literacy skills
- Integrate these skills into curriculum
- Build our own curricula to help people use the tools
- Apply technologies to our own teaching

Keep doing what you’re doing
- Build digital collections
- Provide flexible access
- Teach information literacy skills
- Meet increasingly high expectations
  …and wear your bifocals.

Gail L. Persily

Bibliography


