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## A Reflection on the Importance of Web in Long-Distance Teaching

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## A Reflection on the Importance of Web in Long-Distance Teaching

### ■ Contextualization

- The **Internet** is a powerful tool and an alternative to the traditional teaching methods → it didn't replace traditional teaching, but added a new dimension to it
- Interactive technologies changed the way that knowledge has been disseminated

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### ■ Contextualization

- In the **learning society**, it's critical to achieve increasing skills and qualifications to be "up-to-date" in a global and complex labour market
- New technologies are creating new communities, that are not aggregated to a specific place, but linked by values and thoughts à **learning communities**

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### ■ Contextualization

- Long-distance teaching à a **revolution** in actual **educational paradigms**:
  - presenting **opportunities** to universities to integrate and enrich their didactic material
  - offering **new interaction** and communication tools between teacher and student
  - a new perception of the **dimension of space and time** of learning (internet as a pedagogical tool)

## ■ Contextualization

- Long-distance teaching à a revolution in actual educational paradigms:
  - making knowledge **available** to **distant locations** where it is of difficult access
  - different dimension of time, respecting the **distinct apprenticeship times** of those learning
  - rather than transmitting “accumulated knowledge”, means are made available to **build knowledge** from **virtual communities**

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### ■ The applications of web semantics

- The construction of a **learning community** is fundamental for the success of an on-line classroom à the social context as mediator and potential enabler
- The emergence of technologies and networked communication systems brought a **4th generation of long-distance teaching models**, where interaction and communication are valued assets

## ■ The applications of web semantics

- The **management of time** from the teacher is a **crucial point** in long-distance education:
  - time needed to administer an online course is greater if compared with traditional teaching
  - continuous presence of the teacher, his guidance and availability
  - time spent to read, reply the messages of students and read assignments

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### ■ The applications of web semantics

- The number of teachers using e-learning is increasingly larger in Portugal
- Numerous researches point out the need for an adequate transmission of knowledge to new realities à a new form of seeing organizations and fundamental pillar of creating value
- The model of knowledge management is based on Intellectual Capital

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### ■ The applications of web semantics

- From the student's point of view, e-learning demands a greater level of motivation and learning autonomy than regular education (and some experience using the Internet):
  - it promotes innovation in formative processes
  - it stimulates the creation of multimedia content
  - it allows the creation of learning communities

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### ■ Final considerations

- Web based teaching still constitutes a challenge for both students and teachers: Anderson (2007) concludes that “the internet is slowly dropping its origins as a tool for reading and writing and entering a new more social and participative phase”
- One of the ideas of the new paradigm of the Internet / Web 2.0 is to use the web as a platform à applications and services may be used together

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### ■ Final considerations

- Long-distance teaching makes possible for millions of people all over the world to access a more elaborate knowledge and quality education

“ Knowledge is decisively the frontier for success in this new millennium ”

Thank you for your attention!

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