The Impact of Learning Management Systems in Universities

Dr. Willie Clarke–Okah
Acknowledgements

• Dr Leonie Steyn & Ms Alice Goodwin-Davey, Unisa, South Africa
• Prof Madhulika Kaushik, Wawasan Open University, Malaysia
• Prof Derek Keats, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa
• Dr Sunday Reju, National Open University of Nigeria
This keynote address deals with:

- Issues and challenges
- Benefits and successes
- Failures and pitfalls
- Impacts
- Policy
In ancient times people used computers to send email.
Applications

YouTube, Flickr, Slideshare, MySpace, Wordpress, Facebook, Blogger, Del.icio.us, Technorati, Wordle, Orkut, Twitter, Feedburner, Friendster, Discus, LinkedIn.
I only use email to talk to old people.

What's email?
When was the Battle of Hastings?

Who cares, just Google it!
A lot of what is done with Internet technologies in education...

19th Century Pedagogy

21st Century Minds

21st Century Technology
Social Constructivism

- Culture and context matter
- Learning – a social and active process
- Self-governing
- Problem-solving
- Collaborative
Connectivism

- Internet-driven
- Web-based resources
- Currency of knowledge
- Discovery through decision-making
Learning Management Systems

- Course and student management
- Management and delivery of learning
- Admissions
- Registration
- Fee payments
- Etc.
Issues and Challenges

- Access to learning for students with disabilities
- Resistance to online teaching
- Pedagogy
International Accessibility Standards

- http://www.w3.org/WAI/
- http://www.devarticles.com/c/a/HTML/W3C-Web-Standards/
Desire2Learn

- [http://www.desire2learn.com/](http://www.desire2learn.com/)
Benefits and Successes

- Managing very large student populations
- Teacher–student and student–student interaction
- Performance monitoring
- Customization
- Information sharing
- Assessments and self-assessments
Failures and Pitfalls

- Not entirely user-friendly
- LMS not able to “speak” with other systems
- LMS use inconsistent with internal needs
- Variation in students’ computer literacy
- Inability to access the Internet by some students
Impacts

- Great for administrative services
- Greater academic control by course coordinators
- Comparative teacher performance evaluation
- Higher levels of learner engagement
- Handling of assignments and feedback
- Improved learner performance
- Discussion forums
Policy

- Appropriate eLearning policies
- Communication of policy directives
- LMS Vendor engagement
- Tweakability
- Strategically-driven solutions
Conclusion

- Equal access to learning for all
- Content screening
- Personalized learning
- 19th or 21st Century pedagogy?
- Reluctance of teachers to embrace LMS
COL’s LMS Evaluation Tool User Guide (August 2004) is also available at:

Thank you