

Notes on Schoology

- setting up account was easy
- fairly basic
- tool designed to help teachers/ instructors and students
- tool for teachers to use in their classroom
- learning management system learning environment combined with a social communication tool
- you can have admin and can manage at schools and different levels also running blended environments
- can run test quizzes have discussions
- can be used as a virtual classroom
- create assignments.
- resource area- can build resource and use google gives you ability to build templates for your courses
- share within and outside your organization
- giving people access to your information
- schoology page based on everything you have a connection with
- give instructor the ability build out your course and have different personality
- can make info available as you're going through it
- material index is the core of the course
- Video tutorial at the beginning of the page
- business model- there is a free version and then there is one that has cost
- parent codes- can be managed through each individual course, can associate members with each individual course, by members where the course is there is a thing you can press that says parent access code, different code for different parents
- same tour for student sign up
- adding resources is very easy, access to google docs, add files , links, discussion pages and can create or add tests and quizzes, easily categorized.
- the construction for tests and quizzes is quite simple, give multiple ways to ask questions. can have the test timed
- when clicked on people, all the people on the university of regina network showed up
- to many access codes
- would be difficult to navigate as a young student
- difficult to find test
- when create new things text bubbles pop up to help you with what you are trying to do
- under teacher mode it is hard to make tests available can be found under settings
- final grade book
- monitor student activity online, what they open, what they have viewed and what they have commented, under analytics
- parent access code is available and parents can only available their children

Schoology

What are these tools designed to do?

- Schoology is a tool that is designed to enhance online communication between teachers, parents and students.

What are your favourite features of each service?

- Teacher- I liked how it organized information for your classroom. It keeps attendance, records marks and allows you to create quizzes.
- Student- I liked how it served as a form of an online report card. Giving access to quizzes, marks and attendance it made it easy to see your progress throughout the course.
- Parent- Gave access to child's activities within the classroom (marks and attendance). It also provided an easy way to communicate with your child's teacher.

What features seem to be missing from each service (re: teaching, learning, assessment)?

- We did not discover any tools missing from Schoology.

What are your thoughts on the design of these tools?

- The tools and set up of Schoology are similar to Facebook which most people have which makes it easy to navigate around the site.

How do these tools compare?

- Both tools, Schoology and Edmodo resemble Facebook. They also both allow you to create quizzes and assignments as well as customizing the space. There was more parent access available on Schoology than on Edmodo.

How easy are these tools to use and learn?

- The tools on Schoology were very easy to learn because pop up boxes guided you through each tool.

Do you feel that these tools would be appealing to students?

- Yes, these tools would be appealing to students because it organizes subjects, allows them to work online, and there is not a over abundance of tools to use.

Do you feel that these tools would be appealing to parents?

- Yes, they are the same as the students tools. This allows students to assist their parents at home if they are having trouble with the website.

What is the business model of these tools?

- The business model of Schoology is free for the most part. There is an available version that does have a cost.

Is this something that you could see yourself using in your classroom? Why or why not?

- Yes because it is user friendly, free, and I feel parents would appreciate this tool as well as the students.

Edmodo

What are these tools designed to do?

- These tools are designed so teachers can post assignments and quizzes for their students to see online. Parents are also able to access the site and keep track of their students progress. It also has a notification option to keep everyone up-to-date on assignments and activities.

What are your favourite features of each service?

- Instructor: As a teacher I liked having the ability to make a quiz directly on the site. Once the students have taken the test I can automatically insert their marks into their grade books.
- Student: For students you are able to create a unique profile. You have to option of choosing different interests and learning styles that fit your personal needs. The “backpack” tool lets students put all of their work and links in one specific area. They are also able to share these links and files with their fellow classmates.

What features seem to be missing from each service (re: teaching, learning, assessment)?

- Instructor:
 - As an instructor I was unable to view my students Library. Being able to see their backpack would be useful to ensure students are on task. On the other hand, it offers students a private area, and if they wish to share their links or opinions they can do so on the group wall.
 - When marking the quiz the answers had to be written exactly the same as the teacher typed them. For example, “4” and “four” are considered two different answers. In this case, the students answered correctly but it was shown as incorrect.
 - Finding the members of the class was difficult. It took a while to navigate the page in order to find a class list and their personal profiles.
 - The Gradebook could be improved. The instructor is unable to comment on the grades of the students which would be helpful to both the student and their parents.
- Student:
 - None

What are your thoughts on the design of these tools?

- The design of Edmodo is similar to Facebook but is more simplistic in the options.
- It’s a good design but would take some getting used to.
- We found that the site had limited communication options in terms of comments between teacher and parents, and teachers and students.

How do these tools compare?

- Both tools, Schoology and Edmodo resemble Facebook. They also both allow you to create quizzes and assignments as well as customizing the space. There was more parent access available on Schoology than on Edmodo.

How easy are these tools to use and learn?

- As a first user we found the site difficult to navigate but as we got more comfortable with the site it became easier.

Do you feel that these tools would be appealing to students?

- The similarity to Facebook would help to attract to students to the site.
- The options for interests and learning styles enhanced the students ability to form a digital identity.

Do you feel that these tools would be appealing to parents?

- Yes because it gives them the ability to keep track of their children's assignments, quizzes, marks, and events. However they would have to be somewhat technology savvy, and would probably prefer to speak with the teacher in person and online, which the site did not offer.

What is the business model of these tools?

- Free

Is this something that you could see yourself using in your classroom? Why or why not?

- Out of the two I would prefer Schoology over Edmodo because there are more options available for Schoology.