

EDUC 8842 Module 6 - Video Presentation for a Professional Distance Education

Conference: Transcript

Hello, my name is Ennis Brinson and I'm here to present our speaker Ray Kurzweil.

He is the producer of e-book reading software as well an advocate for text to speech for the blind.

Before the guest speaker takes the floor, first, I want to speak to you about an emerging technology in distance education-"e-books".

According to Siemens, more learners are adopting the thought of participating in distance education (Laureate Education, 2008).

How do e-books fit into this equation?

Imagine an entire library at your fingertips; you could read your favorite book anywhere.

Now think about going from old paperbacks to digital formats.

We all have familiar with laptops, PDAs and iPods, well these are a few of the devices which can display these formats.

So where did e-books come from?

In the 1990s the costs of computer media storage began to drop.

Internet access became prevalent in universities and homes.

We also began to see the popularity of file sharing explode.

There were numerous advances in scanning technologies developed and there was major growth among personal computers and laptops.

In the late 90s, PDAs started to become popular and technologies such as electronic displays begin to drop in price.

As we approached 2007, Amazon and Sony released electronic book readers.

Well my friends if you haven't realized it already, there are countless advantages associated to

e-books which exist for educational institutions as well as students.

According to Robinson & Stubberud (2012), interactive materials such as simulations and online interactive lessons are popular among a vast majority of learners.

Now let's ponder the possibilities when you think about what e-books can do for learners.

They're portable and font functionality makes personalized reading possible

For those of us who are clumsy, like many of us are, our e-Books will remain in perfect condition...because e-books are virtually resistant to damage.

Furthermore, institutions can see benefit in the form of overdue fines, books can't be damaged, lost or not returned.

Everyone has access to resources from anywhere at anytime.

Research indicates that some other main advantages of e-books can be labeled as better use of study time in addition to original approaches for interpreting subject matter as well as price.

So you see my friends, e-books are simply digital books that can be downloaded from a CD or the internet and stored like any other digital file.

Text can be read with programs such as Acrobat Reader and Microsoft Reader, most of which are free.

So why use e-books in your classroom?

They're delivered almost instantaneously.

Anyone can purchase them without leaving their chair

We can't get away from cost; some e-books are even free!

No trees are required to manufacture paper for the pages of e-books, so we can help our environment by saving a tree.

Educators can implement these tools to create environments or scenarios where learners can communicate with them as well as their peers.

E-Books take up much less space because we do not need a library or a room for them.

Let's say a typical teacher's book case can hold 400 CDs,

Then approximately 80 e-books can be stored on a CD; which means with e-books, each classroom now could have a library of 32000 e-books.

Because e-books are extremely portable, this means no more heavy books weighing students down.

When it comes to e-Books, the evidence speaks for itself, they Increase motivation, they create an authentic artifact, they also allow for differentiation.

Probably the best of them all.....our Students learn.

The question is.....why aren't more educational institutions investing in e-books?

How long will it take before educational leaders adopt these tools?

Is it due to a reluctance to adopt new technology?

Can you use a computer, an ipod, or a cell phone?

Can you hear and/or read?

If you answered yes to these questions?

Then you can use an e-book.

With e-reader software, students can edit right on their computers

Many programs have bookmarks, page navigation, whole book search features, multi colored highlighting, drawing, and font sizing

Teachers.....Do you have bookworms in your class?

Now you can challenge them as they can create their own e-books using programs such as Acrobat or PowerPoint.

Teachers.....you can also use an e-book along with a video projector to display e-Books as a big book on a display screen in the front of the room for all students to see.

All of these qualities that make up an e-book can help our learners open doors.

Understanding can go from that old paper book we thought about to this robust tool we were introduced to today.

Can you see the light?

E-books, the possibilities are endless!

Thank you for your time and for allowing me to introduce you to e-Books.

Without further adieu, I would like to introduce our speaker, Ray Kurzweil.

(Applause) (Applause)