Click4it Wiki - Toolkit

Conceptualization Theory

Designing Courseware Using Conceptualization Theory

Primary Courseware

▶ Determine the learner's pre-existing knowledge and ensure that the primary courseware builds on the learner's schema. The most important purpose of the primary courseware is to orient the learner to the subject matter.

▶ The learning material must provide the learner with a map of what is to be learned and understood through the subsequent learning activity. The efficacy of the primary courseware is largely dependent on the match between the existing knowledge of the learner and the information that is presented. Ensure that the content is neither too simple nor too complex as the primary courseware will set the pace for the entire learning process.

▶ A live lecture, a printed document, a video or a presentation are some options for delivering primary courseware.

Secondary Courseware

▶ Design suitable tasks that will build relevant contexts for the learner. The tasks and the supporting instructional material provided will constitute the secondary courseware.

▶ While designing tasks, ensure that the learner is engages with the concept that is being discussed.

▶ Ensure consistency, memorability and learnability in the tasks and the supporting instructional material that is created. This will ensure that the material is effective for supporting learning.

▶ Mind mapping tools that help learners analyze concepts better, authoring tools and even word processors can also be innovatively utilized as secondary courseware.

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Tertiary Courseware

- Learning through tertiary courseware happens at two levels.

  1. The learner learns through a process of asking questions, discussing his or her thoughts, sharing opinions and challenging ideas.
  2. These dialogues when documented can support the learning of other learners. Tertiary courseware can thus be seen as 're-usable' learning.

- There could be several approaches to providing support of this nature. For instance, a database of 'frequently asked questions' that is complied over batches of learners can be a useful learning support. Alternatively, a learner sharing his or her experiences through a forum or a blog could help other learners eliminate certain methods and employ others.

- Reflective thinking or the dialogue with oneself can also be useful. Journal entries can be an ideal tool for this purpose.

- Provide adequate and appropriate opportunity for discussion between learners and between the learners and the tutor. Peer reviews, open house forum discussions, email, web based conferences and discussions, voice and text chats are some options that are available to encourage and document discussion.

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