

13.8.2024

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Title

The prospects for using the Internet in collaborative design education with China

Publication year

2001

Source/Footnote

In: Higher Education. - 42 (2001) 1, S. 47 - 60

Inventory number

12641

Keywords

Informationsgesellschaft / Wissensgesellschaft ; Ausland : Hongkong ; Prüfungsordnungen : Design ;
Multimedia / Internet

Abstract

The Internet has become widely available in higher education institutions all over the world offering new possibilities in communication, collaboration and delivery. This paper examines the prospects for using the Internet in the context of collaborative design education with China, using the School of Design of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University as a case study. The critical success factors are discussed. These involve serious investment of resources and changes at government, institutional and personal levels on both sides of the collaborative institutions. It is important to look into the infrastructure and policy issues, access to information technology, curriculum adaption and instructional design as well as staff and student attitudes in order to achieve the collaborative objectives through an Internet supported strategy. Although the Internet is a cost effective delivery mechanism, the School does not intend to deliver its design course materials to China purely online. Pedagogically, the School believes in a dynamic interaction between real and virtual learning environments for quality student learning. Technically, there are many impediments to overcome

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before teaching staff and students are familiar with the use of information technology and it will take some time before most people in China can make full access of the Internet to connect freely to electronic education. Therefore, a hybrid approach is proposed to train design educators and practioners in Mainland China by utilising traditional face-to-face teaching method and established technologies while developing the use of the Internet gradually. (HRK / Abstract übernommen) Lo Choi Yuet Ngor, Alice, E-mail: sdalice@polyu.edu.hk