

e-Learning And New Technology - The Challenges For Education

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Technology is changing many facets of our society, and the fastest adopters are young people. Their appetite for communication and technology results in one of the major challenges for education providers as they seek to keep pace with evolving learning styles and social change.

Touchpoint Change recently ran a brainstorming session to look at some of the key issues that this raises. The results are presented in this summary. Contact us if you would like to explore any of these challenges in more depth, or investigate the practical opportunities in your organisation.

Key challenges for education providers	Activities to be undertaken to explore the opportunities, make the changes and deliver the benefits to learners and providers
Re-engineering educational processes and outcome assessments	Reviewing the impact of new technology on existing processes for education and administration, building virtual communities of learners, managing learning outcomes so every student takes advantage, gains the benefits and avoids the distractions.
Investigating the wide range of applications and systems available	Exploring the applications available in the fast changing market, understanding technological and user trends, keeping abreast of the latest popular applications and evaluating which might be of benefit.
Transforming traditional learning methods in the e-environment	Migrating content, introducing web based technologies, adding multimedia functionality, creating a learning environment with links to a diverse range of sources, adopting new methods to suit more diverse learning and communication styles.
Understanding the new students' needs and behaviours	Harnessing the web to capture training needs more effectively, understanding the psychology of the new generation, allowing individualised programmes and personalised learning style/pace.
Reinventing learning programmes for the online world	Re-thinking traditional approaches, exploring new opportunities, assessing the best balance for blended delivery, developing creative and effective learning approaches.
Navigating the technological and infrastructure changes required	Adopting the new and emerging technologies in a cost effective manner, using social networking facilities to aid learning and promote interaction, planning implementation and usage, integration with existing systems and processes, ensuring value for money.
Planning the investments and creating a new business model	Defining a business plan to fund and manage these changes, creating a new financial model for the new world with its risks and opportunities, developing opportunities for distance learning, protecting international revenues during a world recession which will squeeze demand.
The cultural change this requires from lecturers, teachers, students, Heads of Department & Directors	Understanding the cultural change being driven by technology and the new generation of students, assessing the impact on the current education establishment, developing a new culture of learning and teaching provision, helping staff and students through these fast moving and personally challenging times.