

The Present and Future of E-Learning – Highlights of OEB 2009

Do tomorrow's students still have to go to the library, or do they only need to learn through quizzes and videos on Facebook? In times of tightening budgets, what methods are available to train new employees to the highest standard? What does the early-21st-century classroom look like? How can an iPod be used as a learning tool, and what does e-learning have to do with football?

All these questions and more will be discussed by more than 2000 e-learning experts from over 90 countries at this year's Online Educa Berlin, the largest global conference for technology-supported learning and training. A multitude of workshops and sessions, two forums and a debate will cover the deployment and use of e-learning at schools and universities, in the workplace and in the public sector.

Workplace Learning

The current economic climate presents an opportunity to revamp corporate learning and training, swapping traditional and outdated strategies for fresh and innovative ones. What do work-based learning and blended learning entail, and how can they be adapted to suit different business structures? What benefits do open learning and distance learning offer businesses, and how can they be efficiently embedded? Such questions will be the focus of numerous sessions from expert-led discussions through to real-life case studies, providing a comprehensive theoretical and practical overview of the possibilities.

Global companies such as BP, Deloitte and SAP will present their strategies for more productive learning in the wake of the financial crisis. Martin Dougiamas, the founder of Moodle, an open-source platform with 735,000 users and 1000 new registrations each day, will display solutions for firms.

In addition, highly acclaimed experts Jay Cross and Charles Jennings will present "*The New Era of Corporate Learning*". The sessions are designed for anyone dealing with the significant challenges confronting corporate learning across the world and include expert-led round-table discussions, symposia, demonstrations, 'un-conferences', and rapid-fire PechaKucha rounds, as well as a learning-video festival.

All of these gatherings get to the very heart of corporate learning and will offer readily applicable examples of best practice solutions.

Session	Time	Room
Delivering More for Less – In Business (FIN04)	Thursday, December 3 11:45 – 13:15	Charlottenburg I
New Era of Corporate Learning (COR30)	Thursday, December 3 14:30 – 15:15	Tegel
Responding to the Changing World of Work (Plenary D)	Friday, December 4 09:15 – 11:00	Potsdam III

Opportunities and Dangers of the Social Web

Is the social web the learning tool of the future? Or might using Facebook, StudiVZ, Xing and other social-networking tools actually harm us in the long run? This question will be discussed at the Online Educa Debate by psychologist Dr Aric Sigman. With his critical views of new media, television, and contemporary parenting practices, the social media opponent has caused an international sensation. He will be seconded by political columnist Bruce Anderson of *The Independent* newspaper. Well-known for his outspoken views, Anderson is also the biographer of British Conservative leader David Cameron and former Prime Minister John Major. Their position contention will be contended by Donald Clark, a director of LINE, Caspian, and UFI, who is well-known in the blogosphere as a commentator on developments in education and training. He will be joined by Jerry Michalski, creator of the Sociate blog.

Session	Time	Room
The ONLINE EDUCA Debate (Plenary B)	Thursday, December 3 17:45 – 19:00	Potsdam I

Educational Games and Informal Learning

The value of educational games comes under the microscope in a number of sessions this year. How pedagogically useful is learning in virtual worlds? And what actually makes a good learning game? Besides discussing the potential of games in the sessions *Gaming, Informal Learning & MUVES*, *BILD Personal Learning Environments – The UK's Vision of the Future* and *Web 2.0 Leading to Learning 2.0*, experts will also present exciting projects. In *EU 3D: Ctl+Alt+Delete*, learners become creators when school children use game-designing tools to develop their own learning applications. Integrating GIS technologies such as Google Maps and Google Earth into compelling computer games is part of the international project, GeoEduc3D. Dr Thomas Michael Power will present these games, whose primary goal is to raise awareness of geomatics among high-school students in order to attract future professionals. In *E-Learning with a Kick*, Michael Härtel from the German Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training will explain how graduates receive vocational orientation in sport stadiums, and Julie Stoker from Arsenal FC elucidates how the London football club is encouraging children to learn languages while playing “the beautiful game”. That the prolific utilisation of games can go beyond the conventional educational context is shown by Koen DePryck from CVO, Antwerpen-Zuid, Belgium: specially designed games stimulate the attitudes of cancer patients towards their illness and encourage the healing process.

Session	Time	Room
Gaming, Informal Learning & MUVES (STR 25)	Thursday, December 3 14:00 – 16:00	Tiergarten
BILD Personal Learning Environments – The UK's Vision of the Future (COM 16)	Thursday, December 3 14:30 – 16:00	Schinkel III

Web 2.0 Leading to Learning 2.0 (SOC 35)	Thursday, December 3 16:30 – 17:30	Charlottenburg I
EU 3D: Ctrl+Alt+Delete (VAR49)	Friday, December 4 11:45 – 13:00	Tiergarten
Innovative and Creative Forms of Teaching (FUT 57)	Friday, December 4 11:45 – 13:30	Charlottenburg I
E-Learning with a Kick: Education & Football (VAR59)	Friday, December 4 11:45 – 13:30	Köpenick II/III

“Textbooks Terminated?” – Online Education at School

Is the end of the traditional printed textbook near? Should we all follow in the steps of California’s governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and switch to e-books? What are the side effects of the proposal, and are schools and universities in the US, Germany, and other parts of the world ready for such a move? Dr Bob Barrett, a professor at the School of Business at the American Public University, will be discussing the transition of traditional classroom strategies and techniques into the virtual online-learning environment. A closer look at the status of online education in German schools will be taken at the *School Forum*, which premieres on Wednesday, December 2nd. Renowned experts such as Germany’s “most IT-savvy teacher”, Olaf Kleinschmidt, and professor of e-learning Guus Wijngaards from INHOLLAND University will share their knowledge with the audience and debate the issue of learning technologies in today’s schools. The “*21st-century classroom*” provides educators with hands-on experience regarding what the future of learning could look like. Beyond the Forum, the “*School Session*” will feature primary and secondary-school students and teacher trainees from Berlin discussing the potential of Web 2.0 tools and social media in schools and how educational institutions can successfully integrate informal learning into the classroom.

Session	Time	Room
School Forum (SFO)	Wednesday, December 2 12:00 – 18:00	Pavillion
The School Session (PED31)	Thursday, December 3 16:15 – 17:30	Potsdam I
Innovations and Advances in Pre-Service and In-Service Teacher Training (FUT61)	Friday, December 4 14:30 – 16:00	Tiergarten

E-Learning at your Fingertips

A total of 104 exhibitors from more than twenty countries will present the latest technology and future trends in the field of online education in the exhibition area, providing participants with the opportunity both to discuss solutions and to try them out. In addition, twelve exciting projects, including innovative tools, services, and online courses, such as a virtual centre for shoe design and a computer-based training for container truckers, will be on display in the Demonstration and Best Practice Showcases Area.

Session	Time	Place
Demonstration and Best Practice Showcases (DEM)	Thursday, December 3 14:30 – 17:30	Potsdam III

Further information about the annual conference can be found at: www.online-educa.com

Gallery of last year's conference: <http://www.online-educa.com/media-picture-gallery>

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