

Editorial

This conference edition of the EJEL contain a selection of papers which were presented at Glasgow Caledonian University in November 2003.

The keynote address of Gilly Salmon, from the Open University in the UK, spoke to a variety of possibilities as to how the future of e-Learning might unfold. The main thrust of this message was that it is important is to remember the very old adage from instructional technology - learning is first of all about interaction between people, and the technology must serve that interaction, and not try to drive the process in a different direction.

On the other hand the power of the technology should to be fully utilised, as it does offer unprecedented opportunities for interaction and for linking people, ideas, texts and resources. This leads to the notion of e-publishing. This new idea requires the reconceptualisation of the term 'e-paper' which will mean something different to simply publishing "conventional papers" on the Web.

What does that mean, and how can it be done? First of all, a new emphasis on connected texts is required. Wherever it is appropriate, include links to Internet resources and sites: websites, blogs, discussion forums etc. These papers of course still need to retain academic substance in their own right, but they should also link into the much larger virtual conversation, which is out there on the other side of the web browser.

Of course much of the detail of how this will be achieved is yet to be determined but the idea is certainly in interesting one and it offers a clear challenge to the academic community.

It is clear that there is much work to be done in developing a new e-Learning world and that we have only just begun to have a glimpse of the new and exciting ways in which learning will eventually be transformed.

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