Research, Development and Innovation (RDI)

Assignment 1

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1. Future research

    Open Educational Resources (OER) are digital contents with teaching-learning purpose released under an open intellectual property license to allow free use or repurposing. These resources are stored in repositories in public domain available through a web interface.

    OER can have distinct format and granularity, that is, courses of academic programs, lecture notes, assignments, quizzes, textbooks, syllabi, etc., in distinct format: video, audio, image or text.

    The use and development of OER is being fostered around the world as an opportunity to access quality higher education. Some prestigious universities offer full courses and learning materials for both students and teachers. These materials can be used, reused and adapted to distinct learning environments.

    Despite the extensive and intensive fostering of OER currently neither websites nor resources are accessible for users with disabilities. Further, from the perspective of users with disabilities the OER repositories have unresolved issues in organization and content structure, inappropriate metadata, navigation system and search system.

    This project proposes to develop a user-centered model applicable to OER websites that include considerations related to: Web accessibility, Web usability and Information Architecture (content structure, labeling, metadata standards, navigation system, and search system) in order to configure an inclusive OER environment to users with disabilities.

    Keywords: Open Educational Resources, Web accessibility, Web usability, Information Architecture, metadata standards.

2. Research area

    In accordance to ACM definition, this research is related to Human-computer interaction and Accessibility. On the other hand, this research belongs to applied computing in Education.

    Human-computer interaction (HCI) is the study of how people interact with computers and to what extent computer applications are developed for successful interaction with human beings. Nowadays there is a significant effort to making "user-friendly" computing products. HCI involve usability concept. That is a set of design decisions to improve quality of user experience. Particularly, web usability best practices are associated to some desirable characteristics on websites: learnability, memorability, intuitiveness, affordance, efficiency, preciseness and security.

Web accessibility ensures that people with disabilities can use the web in equal conditions than others. To achieve this goal it is necessary that web design meets some accessibility guidelines that cover the accessibility requirements of the web components, such guidelines are released by World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI).

Keywords: Human Computer Interaction, Accessibility, usability, accesibility guidelines.

3. International Conferences
1. The Ninth International Conference on Advances in Computer-Human Interactions
   ACHI 2016
   http://www.iaria.org/conferences2016/CfPACHI16.html
   Submission (full paper):   December 8, 2015
   Only .pdf or .doc files will be accepted for paper submission. All received submissions will be acknowledged via an automated system.
   • regular papers [in the proceedings, digital library]
   • short papers (work in progress) [in the proceedings, digital library]
   • ideas: two pages [in the proceedings, digital library]
   • extended abstracts: two pages [in the proceedings, digital library]
   • posters: two pages [in the proceedings, digital library]

2. ACM Special Interest Group on Computer-Human Interaction
   ACM SIGCHI 2016

   http://www.sigchi.org/conferences

   May 7-12 2016, San Jose, USA

3. 6th edition of the international conference "The Future of Education"
   Florence, Italy, 16 - 17 June 2016

   http://conference.pixel-online.net/conferences/FOE2016/

4. New Perspectives in Science Education Conference 5th edition
   17th to 18th March 2016 , Florence, Italy

   http://conference.pixel-online.net/conferences/NPSE2016/

JOURNALS

1. RUSC, Universities and Knowledge Society Journal

   http://rusc.uoc.edu/index.php/rusc/index

2. International Journal of Emerging Technologies in Learning

   http://online-journals.org/i-jet/article/view/2312

3. The international review of research in Open and Distributed Learning

http://www.irrodl.org/index.php/irrodl

Information For Authors

Manuscript Submissions

The aim of The International Review of Research in Open and Distance Learning (IRRODL) is to disseminate scholarly information to scholars and practitioners of open and distance learning and teaching worldwide.

Authors submit their manuscripts online by registering with this journal then logging in and following an automated, five-step submission process. Topics must relate to open or distance learning and may be placed in the Research Articles section or the Notes section.

Manuscripts, including all references, tables, and figures, should be approximately 3,500-5,000 words and should not exceed 7,000 words. Submissions that significantly exceed this limit will not be accepted for review. Tables and figures are encouraged, and they should be placed within the text, not at the end.

IRRODL Sections

Research Articles

Blind, peer-reviewed scholarly articles that feature theory, research, and/or best practice in open and distance learning.

Notes

Shorter articles or abstracts, which are reviewed by the editors, associate editors, or other scholars, but are not peer-reviewed; they may be featured as one of the following:

Research Notes - reports of ongoing and recently completed research projects;

Field Notes - shorter pieces describing innovative projects, applications, or interventions in distance education programs;

Book Notes - opinion pieces and reviews of recently published scholarly books on topics relevant to open and distance learning;

Conference Notes - reviews of recent open and distance learning conferences.

Originality

Manuscripts submitted for review and possible publication in IRRODL must be original material that has not been published nor submitted for review/publication elsewhere. Unpublished material that has been presented at a scholarly conference but not edited or formally published may be submitted.

Full Paper

A publishable paper should contain the following:

1. abstract (150-250 words);

2. keywords;

3. introduction (what is the problem?);

4. research method and/or theory used;

5. if an application or experiment, a description of pool of subjects and how they were chosen;

6. analysis of research and how results impact theory and practice;

7. conclusion;

8. references.

Preparing Manuscripts

Documentation

Manuscripts must conform to APA standard. Consult the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed., 2010).

Follow the author-date method of citation in text. Ensure you provide page numbers for all direct quotes. Prepare an unnumbered reference list in alphabetical order by author. When there is more than one article by the same author(s), list the most recent paper first. References should include the names of all contributing authors. Ensure that all references are accurate and that any references cited in the text also appear in the reference section. Notes, if necessary, must appear at the end of the article (before the reference list) as end notes. Use the end note feature provided by your word processor.