

Chapter 8.14

A Knowledge Management Roadmap for E-Learning: The Way Ahead

Miltiadis D. Lytras

Athens University of Economics and Business, Greece

Ambjörn Naeve

Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Stockholm, Sweden

Athanasia Pouloudi

Athens University of Economics and Business, Greece

ABSTRACT

The technological pace and the advent of the knowledge society will set in the next years the new context for e-learning evolution: The convergence of learning and daily life of citizens worldwide will be evident in new services and transparent technologies. Pervasive or ubiquitous learning will be a critical cornerstone and an ultimate achievement of the e-learning research community. Additionally, worldwide efforts will define the social responsibility character of e-learning. In this short visioning paper, we try to address two critical questions: How will knowledge manage-

ment and relevant technologies affect e-learning in the forthcoming six years? and What are the critical research questions for the new period of e-learning evolution? Many of these aspects could initiate interesting PhD research.

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the knowledge society has been referred to as our new context of living. Knowledge and learning are anticipated as integrative parts of our strategy toward the promotion of our society. Unfortunately, several obstacles limit the

potential value of this new context and its evidence for every citizen.

From this perspective the e-learning research agenda will in the next years realize a qualitative shift in issues that promote the role of e-learning in the context of the knowledge society. The convergence of e-learning and knowledge management will be evident in worldwide initiatives that will foster a constructive, open, dynamic, interconnected, distributed, adaptive, user-friendly, socially concerned, and accessible wealth of knowledge. This seems to be an interesting answer from the scientific community to a volatile world where differences are characterized by points of tension.

In this short paper, we will provide our point of view for the emerging new era of e-learning.

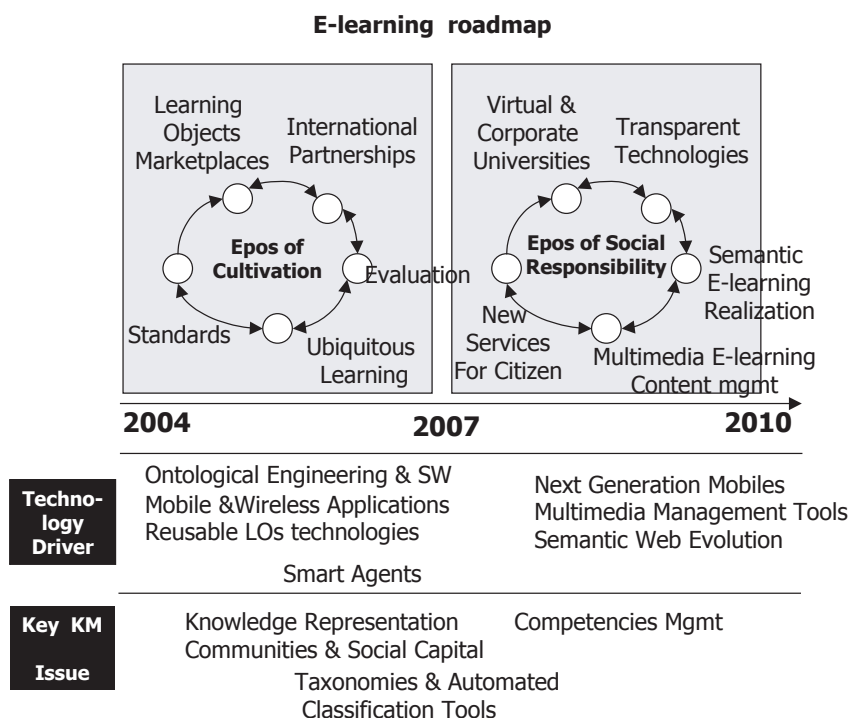
We have decided to distinguish two periods: The epos of cultivation and the epos of social responsibility.

EPOS OF CULTIVATION

In Figure 1, a roadmap for e-learning is presented, where a number of critical milestones provide the significant path for the evolution of the discipline. Toward this direction, knowledge management is a critical enabler. In the following section, we will discuss in more detail the arguments for the presented milestones.

In the first period, 2004-2007, we have classified five important achievements for e-learning:

Figure 1. E-learning roadmap: 2004-2010



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