

Chapter 13

Study on M–Learning Usage Among LIS Students With Special Reference to Alagappa University

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ABSTRACT

Mobile learning comprises any kind of learning which is done on mobile and handheld gadgets either in or out of class, or learning which takes place “on the go” as part of class time, or outside. Although mobile learning is often taken to be synonymous with the use of mobile phones, it is increasingly associated with other devices such as tablet computers, portable games machines, e-books, and other devices which allow people to continue more traditional approaches to learning as they move through their daily lives. As such, it fits comfortably into definitions of blended learning. Educators and trainers are empowered since they can use the mobile technology to communicate with learners from anywhere and at any time. At the same time, educators and trainers can access learning resources from anytime and anywhere to plan and deliver their lessons.

INTRODUCTION

Mobile learning through the use of wireless mobile technology allows anyone to access information and learning materials from anywhere and at any time. As a result, learners have control of when they want to learn and from which location they want to learn. Also, all humans have the right to access learning materials and

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information to improve their quality of life regardless of where they live, their status, and their culture. Mobile learning, through the use of mobile technology, will allow citizens of the world to access learning materials and information from anywhere and at any time. Learners will not have to wait for a certain time to learn or go to a certain place to learn. With mobile learning, learners will be empowered since they can learn whenever and wherever they want. Also, learners do not have to learn what is prescribed to them. They can use the wireless mobile technology for formal and informal learning where they can access additional and personalized learning materials from the Internet or from the host organization. Workers on the job can use the mobile technology to access training materials and information when they need it for just-in-time training. Just-in-time learning encourages high level learning since learner's access and apply the information right away rather than learn the information and then apply the information at a later time.

Advantages of M-Learning

- M-Learning can be deployed in Software as a Service (SAAS) format to provide anytime, anywhere access.
- It offers freedom and power of choice and students can take up courses while on the go.
- M-Learning offers rich content on mobile even at a slower connection.
- With the help of a mobile device like a smart phone or PDA students can access the course Content, download them and track their progress.
- It offers portability to students as students do not require carrying bulky copies, books and files.

Disadvantages of M-Learning

- The M-Learning technology needs to develop more to provide better learning experience. At present it is incapable of integrating complex functionality that requires higher CPU power like 3D graphics.
- Limited storage capacity of the mobile device prevents storing large volume of learning materials.
- Some of the M-Learning techniques are not available in all types of phones.

Benefits of Mobile Learning

- **Accessibility:** M-learning supports both active and voluntary learning. It provides an environment that allows access to peers, content, portfolio

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