



**Instructor: BENADDA Abdelouahid**  
**Level: Master 1 / Language and Communication**  
**Module: E-Learning**  
**Course 2: History of E-learning**

➤ **Course Scope:** An introduction to the general topic of e- learning "how people learn at distance" (this course is an overview of e-learning historical development, types, and current practices)

➤ **Course Learning Objectives**

At the conclusion of this course, you should be able to:

- Identify the historical development of e-learning.
- Explore the scope, trends, and characteristics of e-learning.
- Go through the basic types of e-learning courses and their components.

**Guiding Thoughts to the Course**

1. Have you have thought how E-learning started?
2. Have you ever tried to discover the first beginning of using distance learning?

➤ **Course Content**

• **History of e-learning**

The ceaseless race towards constant progress and going beyond the known limits fixed by human abilities have traced giant leaps towards elaborating new methods to erase all borders and restrictions to knowledge expansion. Modern outlets of education have generated the new concept of distance education that has gone through numerous evolutionary phases:

**1840s:** Isaac Pitman taught shorthand in Great Britain via correspondence (he was sending assignments to his students by mail and they completed the 'homework' and sent it back to him).

**1920s:** Sidney Pressey developed a machine to provide drill and practice items to students in his introductory courses.

**1940s:** The World War II created an Enormous instructional problem: thousands of new recruits had to be trained rapidly. New media technology became dominant and widely used. The war was the 'business driver'. The military mediated strategies such as the use of films for instruction and AV technology was dominant. The idea of an instructional development team was initiated.

**1950s:** The period marked the birth of Programmed Instruction (PI) from behaviourism.

**1960s:** Cognitive psychology was dominant in this decade and the systems approach to designing instruction was introduced. A shift from norm-referenced testing to criterion-

based testing was noted. The focus was on the development of instructional materials. The use of videos emerged and was used in corporate training and school classrooms.

**1970s:** The introduction of the first personal computer, the Altair 880 in 1975, was quickly followed by the Apple II and the IBM PC. With the Apple and the IBM the computer was reliable enough and was used for



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didactical purposes.

**1980s:** In this decade the first MAC enabled individuals to have computers in their homes, making easier to learn more about particular subjects and develop their competences.

**1990s:** Some schools provided online courses, bringing education to people unable to attend a college due to geographical or time constraints. Interactive learning via **CBT**, use of touch screens and interactive videodisks increased with the availability of home computers and more reliance on technology in the workplace. At the end of the 90s the learning management systems (LMS) were used. Some universities started to design and develop their own systems.

**In October 1999**, the phrase “E-learning” was mentioned for the first time in a professional context by Elliott Masie during the ‘**TechLearn**’ conference at Disneyworld, during a CBT Systems seminar in Los Angeles<sup>1</sup>. The word was meant to qualify a way to learn based on the use of new technologies allowing online access.

**2000s:** In the new millennium, internet technologies are more and more integrated with personal, academic, and professional lives. Learners, educators, and instructional designers have a variety of tools and resources to choose from in the courses, seminars, and training, using e-learning tools such as **Web 2.0 tools** and web conferencing...

**2010:** This decade reinforced social media learning like YouTube, Massive Open Online courses, Selective Open Online Courses.

**2014<sup>+</sup>:** 98% of public colleges and universities offered online programmes. Learning was designed to address knowledge gaps: mobile learning was launched.

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<sup>1</sup> TechLearn '99 Conference (<http://www.techlearnt.com>)



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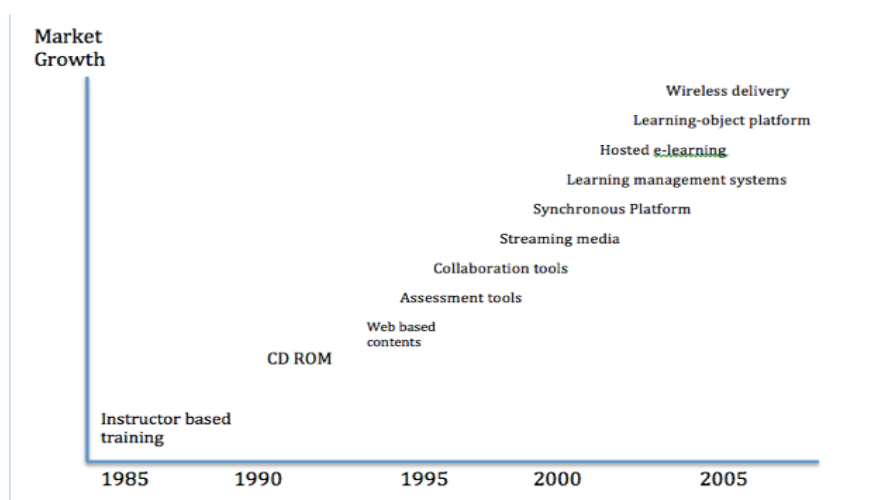


Figure3: Technology evolution in e-learning (Source: SRI Consulting Business Intelligence)

### • E-learning Generations

According to Connolly and Stansfield (2006), e-learning has gone through three distinct generations<sup>2</sup>:

#### a. *The first generation (1994-1999)*

It was marked by a passive use of the Internet where traditional materials were simply consisting of conversion of course material into an online format.

#### b. *The second generation ( 2000-2003)*

It was characterized by rich streaming media, increased resources, and the move to create virtual learning environments that incorporated access to course materials, communications, and student services.

#### c. *The 'net generation' (currently underway)*

The concept of a Digital native has become popular. Today's young people are growing up as a part of the Internet generation and their ease with digital technology, and the access it gives them to almost unlimited opportunities through such tools as e-portfolios, wikis, blogs, social bookmarking and networking, and online simulations is limitless. Additionally, the 'net' generation is increasingly being influenced by advances in mobile computing.

### Reflection Exercise

*“Modern e-learning methods are considered to be revolutionizing contemporary learning systems. But history shows that education can only be developed by evolution and not by revolution”* (Sir John Daniel, 2014)<sup>3</sup>

Do you agree with Sir John Daniel?

Can you write briefly how did e-learning change your own habits in learning English?

<sup>2</sup> Connolly, T.M. & Stansfield M.H. (2006). From e-learning to game-based e-learning: Using interactive technologies in teaching Information Systems, *International Journal of Information Technology Management*.p2

<sup>3</sup> Daniel, S. J. (2014). Open, Distance and Online Learning: A Brief History. International Conference on Emerging Technologies in Education and Computer Science.



#### Additional Improvement Resources

- 1) Distance Learning History (<http://iml.jou.ufl.edu/projects/Spring01/deClair/history.html>)

#### Readings

- 2) Online Learning and Teaching With Technology Murphy, Walker, Webb, 2001
- 3) An Introduction to e-Learning A Study of the Current State of e-Learning in the United Kingdom  
Gizella Dewath: 2004