

and functionality, compared with those used still non-voice mobile services.

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В.Е. Харисов, А.Г. Ковалёва

Уральский федеральный университет имени первого Президента России Б.Н. Ельцина

г. Екатеринбург, Россия

Онлайн-курсы в образовании

Быстрое развитие информационных технологий и Интернета влечет за собой всё больше и больше возможностей для обучения. Одной из таких возможностей является массовые открытые онлайн курсы. Данная статья дает описание открытых обучающих электронных платформ и их использования в обучении.

Online-courses in education

Massive open online course (MOOC) is a course aimed to a large audience in the Internet. Usually it includes some traditional materials as video lectures and problem sets or case studies and instruments that provide communication between instructors and students.

A lot of universities in the world including Russia already have their own platforms to host online courses. Examples of such platforms are edX (includes courses at MIT, Harvard University and others) or Coursera (Stanford and Princeton University, and others). Education on these sites is free and available to a variety of languages, including Russian.

Most online courses duplicate courses that exists in particular

university. Typically, these courses are open to enroll at the same time when these courses are studied at the university. But some courses are designed to improve student's skills in the fields which are not necessarily associated with a particular specialization. These courses are totally independent, and some of these courses are open to enroll all the time. For example, "Learning how to learn" hosted on Coursera website aims to give students the opportunity to improve their learning and planning skills.

How this form of education is realized in practice?

In the beginning one or more instructors record video lectures and create assignments which check student's knowledge.

When this part of the job is finished, the course is uploaded into the open access to allow students to enroll and pass it. Many educational platforms such as Coursera or edX can also issue certificate of successful completion of the course.

How instructors check assignments in these courses? Typically, assignments and tests are checked automatically, but it can be verified by other students in peer-review mode. To get a mark for these assignments you need to check a few works of other students.

In addition, the online course may be held concurrently with the main program of the university. In this way, lectures are replaced by videos. In this form of organization of the program, students watch lectures of the course, and in the classroom instructor can discuss with them more complex issues related to the course or focus on the practical component of education.

Some advantages of the MOOCs should be mentioned.

This approach takes much load off from teachers, because most of ordinary or basic courses do not change from year to year.

Students can watch the lectures being at home. If they enrolled into the online course with the regular university classes, students have a brilliant opportunity to explore the area of a subject more deeply. It would be easier for instructor to work with the audience which is already prepared for the work.

Students may study any time they want and gain knowledge from qualified teachers from all over the world without leaving home.

Unlike the traditional model of learning online courses provide great engagement and retention of attention and more carefully and detailed control the progress in education.

The nature of these courses improves feedback between teachers and students. The vast majority of platforms include mechanism of

communication with instructor of the course.

In addition, this approach makes education mass and affordable, because it's usually free, and anyone who has the Internet connection can enroll into this course and learn something new.

Universities which create these courses receive additional benefits from this approach. Massive online courses let you "feel the taste" of learning in particular universities of the world, which is one of the most effective methods gain fame and popularity for universities. Moreover, this form of competition between universities is better for students as they gain access to a variety of expertise from different universities.

Unfortunately, with all its advantages online form of education has a number of disadvantages.

Not all areas of knowledge can be learned only by studying online courses. For example, in areas such as medicine you need a lot of practice and deep knowledge in different complex and peculiar areas. The doctor who has been trained only by this method is not a true professional.

The downside of a variety of available courses is the lack of a systematic approach to education. At the moment, only universities provide an opportunity to obtain more complete and comprehensive training in various specialties. In some case it's better to combine traditional form of education with online courses.

Summarizing, we can say that online courses with all their disadvantages still can't substitute the traditional form of education. This form of learning requires more self-discipline, it's more difficult to choose right aims in education and they don't provide complete knowledge in some fields of different sciences. But in the same time it provides a good opportunity for good start in some field of knowledge. Although with formal university education this kind of courses can help one to experience other ways of getting some new information or approach to solve problems.

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А.С. Шапов, Д.И. Курманова

Уральский федеральный университет имени первого Президента
России Б.Н. Ельцина

г. Екатеринбург, Россия

NFC технология в платежных системах на мобильных устройствах

Мы все чаще слышим о технологии «коммуникация ближнего поля». И она все больше находит свое применение, так как она дает возможность обмена данными между устройствами, расстояние между которыми около десяти сантиметров. Сегодня эта технология нацелена прежде всего на использование в цифровых мобильных устройствах. В этой статье раскрыты основные характеристики технологии «коммуникация ближнего поля» и ее применение в платежных системах с помощью мобильных устройств, а также возможное дальнейшее развитие этой технологии в будущем.

NFC technology in payment technologies on mobile devices

Near Field Communication is hot. In today's increasingly connected world, this simple, intuitive technology lets you interact securely with the world around you with a simple touch. Fast, seamless, and easy to use, NFC is now available in hundreds of millions of smartphones, tablets, and other consumer electronics, with new devices arriving almost daily. NFC offers the ultimate in security and convenience, and makes new interactions possible. It transforms the already dynamic mobile user experience in a way that enables the "Internet of Things". Now "smart posters", location based check-in signs, a friend's tablet, a ticketing or payment terminal can all interact with your mobile device, securely and seamlessly.