HOW LEARNING OUTCOMES ARE MEASURED IN DIGITAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

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Problem: Heterogeneous definitions of learning with digital media and great variety of measures of learning success

Research goal: Review of prototypical approaches that are used for operationalizing learning outcomes in existing research on digital learning environments

Database searching within Web of Science

- digital learning environment
- teaching and learning
- context higher education
- performance criteria

Limitation criteria

- peer reviewed journals
- publication year 2000-2017

Inclusion criteria screening

- quantitative method
- performance criteria is dependent variable
- targets groups are students in higher education
- learning process, instructional design
- use of digital media

Differentiation of learning outcomes

Evaluation of learning outcome of individuals based on

1. self-reports: experience, perception or values of the learner
2. Observable behavior: actions and goal-orientated behavior of the learner
3. Learning skills: skills or meta-skills
4. Elaboration depth: cognitive measurements
5. Personal initiative: participation or pro-activeness in a digital learning environment
6. Digital activity: active usage of digital tools
7. Social interaction: the impact of social interaction on the learner

Heterogenous evaluation of learning outcome

We identified dependent variables and differentiated frequent practice of measuring learning outcomes. These measurements were categorized: self-reports and elaboration depth were captured most frequently while the least used measurements were personal initiative and social interaction.

In future research we will investigate to what extent particular measurements of learning outcomes in higher education depend on the respective researchers’ general theoretical perspective on learning with digital learning environments.

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