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Review of Distance Evaluation

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ABSTRACT

Early uses of computers in educational performance evaluation environments primarily involved the computer as a tool for improving the administration of assessment. These early assessment were based on a computer terminal or in DOS or GUI environment with capability for graphics or multimedia. Computer-based assessment and evaluation is now common, but not spread everywhere. This Research paper presents some of the advantages of switching from paper-based assessment to Computer Based Assessment, but notes that with each of these advantages there are also disadvantage that must be addressed and overcome. Research has identified many of these disadvantages, and in some cases suggested approaches to overcoming the problems.

Keywords: ICT, GUI, Computer Based Assessment, Distance Evaluation, Web-based Instruction, Computer-based Education, Internet-based Education

Introduction:

Information, communication and technology are the vital topic of the 21 Century. The integration in the area of educational sciences, several new concepts have occurred like computer-assisted instruction, computer-based education, internet-assisted instruction, internet-based education, web-assisted instruction and web-based instruction. Also, distance-education became popular again with information communication technology (ICT) and can now be considered as an alternative to face-to-face education. The need for online education has increased. Online education that allows using so many different alternatives for educational purposes enables distance-education institutions to design an educational process of a better quality.

* Internet-based education is becoming the leading technology in distance education. Internet-based distance education will be a growing opportunity for technology mediated learning in the future.

* Internet-based distance education allows the teaching/learning process to occur "Any Time & Any Where."

Evaluation:

Differentiating Between Measurement, Assessment, and Evaluation:

Evaluation consists of the merging of two very powerful ideas - the comparing of two sets of information and the placement of value on this comparison. For instance we may have data that describes the learning outcomes of a face-to-face instructional program. We are faced with an assessment - comparing two sets of information.

Comparison of Two Sets of Information = Assessment

When we assign a value to this assessment, we have arrived at evaluation.

Evaluation = Assessment + Placement of Value

Remember that assessment and evaluation is not the same thing. To move to the level of a valuation demands that a value be placed on the outcomes of an assessment. Even the use of assessment, the comparing of two sets of information, can be perceived as a high risk.

Online Assessment

With the wide availability of course management software like Blackboard, the World-wide Web is becoming increasingly attractive as a mechanism for the delivery of assessment.

"The World Wide Web is becoming increasingly attractive as a mechanism for the delivery of assessment."Despite the widespread use of computers in teaching and learning their use for assessment have only been limited

Use of Online Assessment:

Today, the main use of online assessment is for formative rather than summative testing of students. This is most commonly providing feedback through online discussion forums or online quizzes. Another popular use of online technologies is for the electronic submission of written assignments which can streamline administrative processes. As issues of security, access and equity are resolved summative online testing are increasing in the hope that it will help manage large volumes of marking and adminis-

tration generate efficiencies that can ease academic workloads Advantage

1. Paperless Test Distribution and Data Collection
Printing test booklets and mailing large quantities of them to test centers can be a major expense for testing programs. If an error is found after booklets are printed booklets must be reprinted and reshipped at considerable expense. If the test is simply an electronic file, it can be relatively easily corrected at any point prior to test administration, and can be sent electronically over the Internet for very little expense.

2. Monitor Student Motivation

Students who are monitored and encouraged to do better actually do improve their performance with positive impacts on test validity.

3. Additional Tools for Examinees

If a test is designed to assess mathematical reasoning abilities, it may be desirable to minimize simple computational errors by providing a calculator for the test. With a computer-delivered test, the calculator can be provided as an onscreen tool-the same tool for all examinees. Other tools, such as dictionaries, can also be provided on an as-needed basis.

4. More Interactive Question Types

You can use Multiple-choice questions via a computer; the next generation may make much more extensive use of the computer's capability to administer items that go far beyond multiple-choice.

Disadvantage:

1. Paperless Distribution and Data Collection

A momentary power interruption has no impact on delivery of a paper test, but can make it necessary to reboot computers. Although recovery systems can be built so that data is not lost in the reboot, and examinees can restart the test in the same spot, building and testing such systems can be expensive. Use of laptops or other systems with battery backup

can also address the momentary power failure problem.

2. Monitor Student Motivation

There appear to be few problems with motivation monitoring, but there might be privacy concerns if item timing information is being collected without the students' knowledge or consent. If students are informed about the monitoring, this could increase anxiety levels.

3. More Interactive Question Types

Designing clever interactive questions is sometimes easier than designing effective scoring strategies for these items. Assigning an appropriate score for an interactive design problem with open-ended responses is much more difficult than developing an answer key for a multiple-choice question.

4. Security

One obstacle which can prevent teaching staff from utilizing technological solutions to administer student assessment is the worry of security. When considering delivering assessment on computer, it is possible to password protect the file containing the test and also to prevent unauthorized access, to overcome the possibility of students copying from each other's visual display screens, the possible responses to each test question can be displayed in a different order.

Conclusion:

Computerized Evaluation provides many benefits over paper-based evaluation. To handling electronic files has advantages relative to paper, and there are monitoring possibilities, additional tools, and innovative item types that are simply not possible with paper-based assessment. But before rushing to embrace computer-based assessment, users should also be aware that each advantage of this new technology also provides challenges that may not be immediately apparent.

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