eLearning Design Approaches: Examples of Utilizing the New Web 2.0 Technologies in Online Education

Donald Fricker
Department of Computer Science
Saint Xavier University
Chicago, IL USA
fricker@sxu.edu

Abstract- The tremendous amount of new websites and software applications loosely categorized as utilizing Web 2.0 types of technologies is staggering. From the huge array of products in Google Docs to the single mammoth applications of Facebook and Twitter, it can be difficult to decide which of these websites and which of the applications features are viable eLearning tools. By definition, all of these Web 2.0 sites and applications offer excellent platform tools for creating, collaborating, and sharing knowledge and providing instruction. The tools also offer many distractions and almost unlimited playtime, goof-off, and idle time to students. Faculty instructional design expertise and the creation of some directions and usage guidance and guidelines are necessary to make the best use of Web 2.0. This article will give some examples of ways in which to increase student and faculty collaboration and set up rewarding educational experiences in some of the new Web 2.0 technologies available. Tools that offer substantial eLearning benefits but are less well known will receive attention as well.

Keywords- Elearning, Web2.0, Instructional Design, Online Education

Remarks: The full paper may be found in www.elearningap.com