**The Role Of Internet In Learning**

Feriyanti Elina Gultom

Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni

Universitas Negeri Medan

**Abstract**

*The rapid development of internet technology and penetrated to all corners of the world has been utilized by various countries, institutions, and experts for various interests including for the education world. Until now, the internet became a necessity for the world of education. Internet is a giant library of the world, because in the internet there are billions of information resources, so we can use the information according to the needs. Internet allowed students study independently. Students can access online from various libraries, museums, databases, and get a primary source of various historical events, biographies, recordings, reports, statistical data. Internet conditioned students to study independently. Students can access online from various libraries, museums, databases, and get a primary source of various historical events, biographies, recordings, reports, statistical data. Students can act as a researcher, not just information consumers only. Information is analyzed according to their learning and conduct searches that match real life. E-Learning is one of the systems or educational concepts that utilize information technology in the teaching and learning process. Students and teachers do not need to be physically present in class, as students can learn teaching materials and work on learning and exam assignments by accessing a computer network that has been set up online.*

***Key words:*** *Role, Internet, Learning*

**Introduction**

History of IT and the internet can not be released from the education field. Internet stands for Interconnection Network, which means the relationship between computer networks. While the network means a data communication system between computers. Then there is also that means that the Internet is a worldwide wide and large computer network, which connects computer users from one country to another around the world, where there are various information resources from starting static to a dynamic one.

A group of people are trying to resist the presence of the internet in their lives because it is considered to have more negative influence than positive influences. However, with the development of the modern world, the existence of the internet can no longer be rejected by humans. Like it or not, want it or not, the internet has become an important thing for the world and human life. The internet is open source of information that was once difficult to access. Access to the source of information is not a problem anymore. Libraries are one of the most expensive sources of information. The presence of the internet allows a person in Indonesia to access libraries in universities in and outside the country (digital liberary). There have been many stories about internet help in the making of papers, research and final assignments. Exchanging information or questions and answers with teachers, lecturers, experts can be done through the internet. Without the internet a lot of final tasks, papers and theses that may take a lot more time to complete.

Internet is also felt very beneficial in the field of education. Before the existence of the internet, the people of Indonesia especially the academics are not easy to find the source of information. Although many books and journals are found in conventional libraries, but not necessarily as needed. The presence of internet has made it easier for one to access various information needed, wherever it is (national and foreign). The distance learningor distant class process some time ago may be considered impossible, now very possible

Cooperation between teachers, lecturers, experts and also with the students who are located physically far apart can be done more easily. In the first, one had to wander or walk far to find a lecturer to discuss a problem. This time it can be done from home by utilizing email or chating. Papers and research can be done by exchanging data over the internet, via email, or by using the sharing file mechanism. Students anywhere in Indonesia can access the best experts or lecturers in Indonesia and even in the world. Geographical constraints are not a problem anymore.

Computer/Internet networks give participants the possibility to do written communication and exchange thoughts about their learning activities. Computer networks can be designed in such a way that lecturers can communicate with students and students can interact with other students. Learning interactions using computer networks can not only be done individually, but also to support group learning activities. Computer network utilization in the distance education system is also known as Computer Conferencing System (CCF). Usually this system is done by electronic mail or E-mail. Some of the advantages of computer network utilization in the distance education system is: can enrich the tutorial models, can solve the problem of learning that students face in a shorter time and can overcome the barriers of space and time in obtaining information. CCF gives students and lecturers the possibility to conduct direct learning interactions among individuals, individuals with groups, and groups with groups (Mason, 1994 in Benny A. Personal and Tita Rosita, 2002:13-14)

Nanda Sudjana (1987:20) says that creativity "is a way or effort to enhance or optimise student learning activities in the learning process". The influence given by the teacher in his approach to students could be greater than that of his parents. This is due to the opportunity to stimulate the students and if he wants to take it more out of the students ' parents.

Internet technology comes as a multifunctional medium. Internet communication can be done interpesonal (e.g. e-mail and chatting) or in bulk, known as one to many communication (e.g. mailing lists). The internet is also able to present in real time audio visual as in conventional methods with the presence of teleconference applications. Based on this, the internet as a medium of education is able to face the characteristic characteristic, namely: (a). as an interpersonal media and mass (b) is interactive (c). enable synchronous or asynchronous communication

This characteristic allows the learner to communicate with the source of science more broadly when compared to using only conventional media. Internet technology supports students who are experiencing space and time constraints to remain able to enjoy education. The method of talk and chalk, can be modified in the form of communication via e-mail, mailing list, and chat.

Here are some of the benefits of using information technology:(a) the information flow still flows at any time without any time and place restrictions (b) the ease of obtaining complete resources (c) student learning activities increase (d) capacity increasing (e) the standardization of learning (f) improves learning outcomes both the quantity/quality.

The role of internet media (of course the computer media being its main device) is increasing rapidly over time. Then it is estimated that this genius machine will be an unforgettable dominant need in the lives of people in the future. In today's digital world, the internet for humans, gliding and flourishing becomes a necessity. Internet does make it easy for learners to get all information related to the world of education (lessons). But on the internet there is also a giant rut, like a jaw that will chew the students with pornographic sites, violence, and other negative things. Although in them there is an interesting pull that is terrible between good (positive) interests with bad (negative). But in the end, negative forces tend to be more prone to the way they think and behave the youth. So to destroy it (at least to minimize it), efforts to maximize the benefits of the internet as an educational medium should be more done. Must, and must! Moreover, it is about to improve the quality of education as well as the quality of educators and students.

Actually some education centers including high school level advanced until the current college so seriously maximize the procurement of internet facilities in schools and campuses respectively to improve the quality of education. From several schools and universities there are already open websites to provide convenience for audiences to access information about schools and universities in question.

Refering to the above exposure, surely the role of information technology especially the internet is undeniable and has contributed greatly. Roy Suryo, has given us an overview of how information technology has played an important role in information communication.

**Discussion**

**Distance Education.**

Distance Education is a formal education based institution whose students and instructors are in separate locations so as to require an interactive telecommunication system to connect both and the various resources needed in it. E-Learning or online learning is part of a distance education that specifically combines electronic technology and internet-based technology.

The progress that occurs in the world of communication and information technology brings about new opportunities and challenges in the educational world. Emerging opportunities include wider access to richer multimedia content, and the development of new learning methods that are no longer limited by space and time. On the other hand, technological advances with a growing range of digital innovations also bring new challenges for educational organizers to continuously adapt education infrastructure with the new technology.

Remote education is not a new method in the education system. This learning method has been used in the United States since 1892 when the University of Chicago launched its first distance learning program for higher education levels. Distance learning methods continue to evolve using a variety of communication and information technologies including radio, television, satellite, and Internet. Widespread public use of the internet in many countries in 1996 became a thriving phenomenon and was followed by the emergence of a variety of digital content in it. That same year, John Bourne developed the Asychronous Learning Network Web that refers to the ability to deliver education anytime and anywhere through the internet.

**Remote education system**

Long distance education is an educational study that continues to evolve along with the rapid advancement of communication and information technology. Therefore, distance education is often perceived as an innovation in 21st Century learning methods that have a cross-space, time, and socioeconomic reach. With this innovation, the community has an alternative option to access education. In general, distance education has a principle that includes:

* Access, which is related to the desire to expand public access to education through education based on communication and information technology, is mass, economical, and minimize the constraints of distance and time.
* Equalization refers to the principle of justice and equality of the right to anyone to study without being constrained by various obstacles.
* Quality, i.e. with regards to the standard assurance of teachers, teaching materials and exams, and interactive learning processes based on communication and information technology.

**Characteristics of Distance Education**

Distance education has some basic characteristics, namely:

* Teachers and students are not in the same room as the learning process progresses.
* The delivery of teaching materials and learning process is done by utilizing communication media and information.
* Emphasize on the self-learning way but there are institutions that organize it.
* The limitations on face to face meetings. Usually face-to-face meetings are performed periodically between learners and teachers or tutors.
* Flexibility in the learning process. In other words, each student can manage their own learning time according to the availability of time and readiness.

**Communication Technology in Remote Education**

The maintenance of remote education cannot be removed from the use of technology. This is because in distance education there is no direct contact between teachers and learners. Communication process between the two is done through the utilization of communication and information technology. However, face-to-front meetings can still be done with limited frequencies. Communication and information technology widely used in distance education is computer and internet.

Computer and internet utilization provides students with the opportunity to access teaching materials that are also packaged in a digital form anywhere at any time. By using computers and the internet as well, teachers and students can interact either using email applications, video conferences, or discussion forums in the network. Although the use of various digital technologies in remote education makes geographic boundaries disappear, but communication processes mediated by computer and internet have limitations in capturing expressions and gestures from teachers and learners. Other supporting communication technologies used to support the maintenance of remote education include electronic books, compact discs (CDS) or digital versatile discs (DVDS) for audio and video recordings, information processing devices such as tablet or laptop.

**Advantages and disadvantages of remote education**

The advantages of distance education methods include:

* The learning process can be done without being limited by the necessity of teachers and learners to be in the same space and time.
* The use of communication and information technology as a learning medium raises lower costs for both remote and student education organizers.
* The teaching materials and various interactions in a digitally packaged text form allow learners to be able to reread the information recorded therein.

The disadvantages of distance education methods include:

* The lack of direct contact between teachers and learners slows down the process of building social relationships and values that are the basic goals of education.
* The lack of control of the learning process as an impact of self-study is the focal point of distance education.
* The limitation of communication and information technology is not being able to completely replace the process of direct communication and interaction occurring in conventional education.

**Electronic Learning**

Electronic learning, better known as E-Learning is a system or concept of education that utilizes information technology in the teaching and learning process. Here are some E-learning definitions from various sources:

* Learning is prepared with the purpose of using an electronic system or computer so as to support the learning process (Michael, 2013:27).
* Distance learning process by combining principles in the learning process with technology (Chandrawati, 2010).
* A learning system that is used as a means for learning to teach the process without having to face directly between teachers and students (Ardiansyah, 2013).

**E-Learning Characteristics**

According to Rosenberg (2001) The characteristics of E-learning are networked, which makes it able to fix quickly, save or regenerate, distribute, and share learning and information.

The characteristics of E-learning according to Nursalam (2008:135) are:

1. Utilizing electronic technology services.
2. Utilizing computer Excellence (digital media and computer networks)
3. Using self learning materials is then stored on the computer, so it can be accessed by lecturer and the student anytime and anywhere.
4. Utilizing learning schedules, curriculum, learning outcomes, and educational administration matters can be seen at any time on the computer.

E-Learning happens in a variety of ways, and a variety of terms are associated with it. Here is a brief glossary of definitions and examples:

* [Blended Learning](https://www.dashe.com/learning-solutions/blended-learning) or Hybrid Learning is delivering learning content in variety of settings and styles over an extended period of time to ensure proficiency. Blended learning can include a combination of face-to-face, online learning, self-study, and on-the-job training.
* [Computer-Based Training (CBT) or Web-Based Training (WBT)](https://www.dashe.com/learning-solutions/elearning) is training delivered on a computer or on the internet.
* Digital Delivery is education distributed on a digital device in any setting, such as classrooms, conference rooms, manufacturing facilities, at a desk, or at home.
* Distance Learning or Remote Learning means that classes are held online to accommodate learners who are separated from the information source or instructor.
* Flipped Classroom reverses the traditional learning environment by sharing learning material *outside* of the class, and moving active work (once considered homework) to in-class time spent with the instructors and classmates. Flipped Classroom eLearning is when the “classroom” is virtual and/or digital devices are used for content and activities.
* Gamification is training that employs game thinking and game-based tools, such as interactive quizzes.
* Interactive eLearning requires dynamic engagement and interchange with learners to motivate critical thinking, problem solving, and memory retention.
* [Instructor-Led Training (ILT)](https://www.dashe.com/learning-solutions/instructor-led-training) is delivered by instructors, either in-person or in virtual classrooms. In-person training is considered eLearning if a digital device is used.
* Learning Management Systems (LMS) are software applications used to create, deliver, and track training programs. Top LMS providers include: Captivate, TalentLMS, Docebo, Looop, iSpring Learn, Litmos (SAP), Thought Industries, 360 Learning, Coassemble, and Asentia.
* Microlearning is training delivered in short bursts over time. Also known as bite-sized learning, microlearning has dramatically increased in recent years, especially with younger generations who have shorter attention spans.
* Online Learning refers to courses delivered online.
* Simulations are training scenarios that use role-playing to deepen the learner’s experience and memory through practice. Simulations also provide assessment opportunities for the learners and for management. In eLearning, simulations encompass virtual activities, online scripts, and interactive role-playing.
* [Video and animation](https://www.dashe.com/learning-solutions/video-solutions) are vital, integral pieces for eLearning and Development because 65% of the population are visual learners.
* Webinars are live or recorded seminars, presentations, or workshops conducted over the internet.

1. E-Learning Benefits

E-Learning has completely transformed the way in which learning is imparted to students. Unlike traditional chalk and board method of teaching, E-Learning makes learning simpler, easier, and more effective. Here are some features of E-Learning that make it advantageous to learner and educator.

* Flexible. E-Learning gives you the flexibility to choose the time and place to access your lessons.E-Learning Increasing the level of learning interactions between learners and enhance interactivity. If it’s carefully designed, electronic learning can increase learning levels, both among students and teachers, among fellow learners, and among students with learning materials (enhance interactivity). Different from conventional learning. Not all learners in conventional learning can, dare or have the opportunity to ask questions or convey their opinions in the discussion.Why? Due to conventional learning, opportunities that exist or that are provided by lecturers/teachers/instructors for discussions or questions answered are very limited. Usually this limited opportunity also tends to be dominated by a number of learners who are quick to respond and dare. Such circumstances will not occur in electronic learning. Shy and doubtful learners have an extensive opportunity to ask questions or to convey a statement/opinion without being watched or pressure from classmates (Loftus, 2001).

Using E-Learning, anyone can learn anywhere. Everyone has the freedom of learning in the most comfortable places with the speed that corresponds to each other's capture power. This way, everyone who follows E-learning can truly master the material. And when you're in a remote area though, the learning process is not a difficult thing to do because you can still follow your learning through E-learning. Learning is easy and convenient. Surely in this way, you will still be motivated to do and master new things.

* Self-study. E-Learning gives the learner an opportunity to independently control the success of learning.Students exploring for themselves is at the very core of learning. Making discoveries from a task the teacher sets that they are genuinely interested in and find challenging, and the feeling they gain from self-direction, is wonderfully rewarding for learners as well as an incredible life tool. Through E-Learningstudents set goals, monitor and evaluate their own academic development, so they can manage their own motivation towards learning.
* Easy Monitoring. E-Learning provides teachers the ability to track students ' progress and ensure that they meet their performance achievements. For example, if students do not pass through their online exams, teachers can offer them learning methods that are better suited to their personality so that they will absorb learning materials more easily and ultimately Improve their learning performance.

The advanced E-Learning system provides a feature of reporting and analytics tools that also allows teachers to determine which areas of E-Learning are still lacking and which are already very good. If for example there are many of your students who struggle to master certain learning materials, for example, teachers can evaluate them and make repairs if necessary.

* Cost efficiency. E-Learning provides cost efficiencies for organiser administration, efficiency of the provision of physical facilities and facility to learn and cost efficiency for learners is the cost of transportation and accommodation.

**Conclusions**

Internet technology is present at this time as a multifunctional medium. Internet communication can be done interpesonal (e.g. e-mail and chatting) or in bulk, known as one to many communication (e.g. mailing lists). The internet is also able to present in real time audio visual as in conventional methods with the presence of teleconference applications. The presence of the internet as a source of information is very enabling one to search and disseminate all science and technology including the invention of research throughout the world easily, quickly, and cheap, so that the growth of knowledge Knowledge and technology faster and more evenly. This information technology is also felt by the education world. Thus, all information on the Internet can be used as a learning resource. By using the Internet, teachers can provide opportunities for students to enrich their own horizons. Students will be encouraged to more have the initiative in seeking a variety of sciences.

A broader opportunity to learn students. In addition, there are also many scholarship information for example given by various organizations, companies and agencies. The internet extends this information to all students wherever they are. By using the Internet, every student in all corners of the country has the same opportunity to obtain such knowledge and information. In other words, territorial and island boundaries are no longer a barrier in taking every opportunity.

There are many more internet roles in education, such as interactive learning, current and actual information, unlimited libraries and so on. The most important thing in internet use is the awareness of every student to take the positive side of the internet and avoid any negative influences of the internet.

**References**

Allen, Michael. 2013. Michael Allen’s Guide to E-learning. Canada : John Wiley & Sons.

Ardiansyah, Ivan. 2013. Eksplorasi Pola Komunikasi dalam Diskusi Menggunakan Moddle pada Perkuliahan Simulasi Pembelajaran Kimia, Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, Bandung-Indonesia.

Chandrawati, Sri Rahayu. 2010. Pemanfaatan E-learning dalam Pembelajaran. No 2 Vol. 8. <http://jurnal.untan.ac.id/>

Haryono. 2010. Pemanfaatan Internet Sebagai Alternatif Sumber Belajar Dan Media Pendidikan Jarak Jauh. <https://www.kompasiana.com/hariyono21/> (6 November 2010)

L. Tjokro, Sutanto. 2009. Presentasi yang Mencekam. Jakarta: Elex Media Komputindo.

L. Gavrilova, Marina. 2006. Computational Science and Its Applications - ICCSA 2006: 6th International Conference. Glasgow, UK: Springer.

Nursalam dan Ferry Efendi. 2008. Pendidikan dalam Keperawatan. Jakarta: Salemba Medika.

Pranoto, Alvini.dkk. 2009. Sains dan Teknologi. Jakarta: PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama.

Renova.2015. Peran Internet dalam Pembelajaran.

<https://renirenofa.wordpress.com/2015/08/19/peranan-internet-dalam-pembelajaran/> (19 Agustus 2015)

Sujana, Janti Gristinawati dan Yuyu Yulia. 2005. Perkembangan Perpustakaan di Indonesia.  Bogor: IPB Press.

***Sekilas tentang pengulis*** : Feriyanti Elina Gultom, S.Pd., M.Hum. adalah dosen pada Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris FBS Unimed.