



**UNIVERSITY OF NOVI SAD
TECHNICAL FACULTY
"MIHAJLO PUPIN"
ZRENJANIN**



ITROCONFERENCE^{4.0}
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT



ZRENJANIN, June 2013



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TECHNICAL FACULTY "MIHAJLO PUPIN"
ZRENJANIN
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**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND
DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION**
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CONTENTS

SESSION 1 - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES AND E-LEARNING	1
I. Konda, B. Rodica and J. Starc SOCIAL NETWORKS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF DIFFERENT THEORIES	7
D. Kozlova DISTANCE LEARNING – AN INNOVATIVE WAY OF GETTING EDUCATION.....	15
I. Stetsenko, E. Yashchuk PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRONIC MULTIMEDIA TEACHING AIDS	19
L. Vokorokos, B. Mados, M. Cajkovský, Z. Dudláková DESIGN OF LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WITH USE OF INNOVATIVE WEB BASED 3D USER INTERFACE.....	22
Z. Havlice, V. Szabóová, Cs. Szabó, J. Víz IMPLEMENTING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE “SOFTWARE ENGINEERING BASICS” COURSE	26
M. Tomásek, M. Cajkovský, I. Klimek, B. Mados ACHIEVING HIGHER STUDENT PARTICIPATION ON LMS CONTENT CREATION THROUGH THE CROWD SOURCING AND POSITIVE MOTIVATION	29
S. Maravic Cisar, R. Pinter, P. Cisar, D. Radosav PEX4FUN: A WEB-BASED ENVIRONMENT FOR TEACHING COMPUTER SCIENCE ...	33
R.Pavic, M.Ivanovic, S. Bauk E-LEARNING ON UNIVERSITY OF MONTENEGRO	38
Z. Namestovski, B. Arsovic POSSIBILITIES OF IMPLEMENTING WEB 2.0 TOOLS IN EDUCATION	43
Z. Covic, I. Fürstner, M. Ivkovic, A. Nad DEVELOPMENT OF SYSTEM FOR AUTOMATED RANKING	46
J. Janjic, I. Tasic PROTECTING CHILDREN ON THE INTERNET	52
M. Jovanovic, V. Ognjenovic CROSSLINGUAL APPROACH IN SEMANTIC DISTANCE EDUCATION SYSTEMS	56
V. Ognjenovic, M. Jovanovic WEB 2.0 BASED ASSESSMENT IN E-LEARNING	60

POSSIBILITIES OF IMPLEMENTING WEB 2.0 TOOLS IN EDUCATION

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Abstract - Modern pedagogical efforts, the information society and changed mental structure of new generations require the implementation of web 2.0 tools in education. Web 2.0 services and sites allow users to interact and collaborate with each other. To implement web 2.0 services in education, it is necessary to have Internet connection and technical and methodical knowledge. Web 2.0 tools, such as online documents, social networks, wikis, blogs, social bookmarking and online presentations are interesting possibilities with interactive and multimedia support, which motivate students and fit their mentality and everyday lives.

I. INTRODUCTION

Web 1.0 was characteristic to the Internet until the middle of the first decade in the new millennium, mostly meaning passive content servicing and one-way communication. The following Web 2.0 environment – beside “content consumption” – also meant creating and sharing of contents, emergence of online applications, as well as of interactive and collaborative activities.

In the following work, we want to present – without completeness – the Web 2.0 tools that can be successfully used in education and for scientific research purposes.

II. FACEBOOK

Facebook, the most popular social networking site, which reached the number of over a billion registered users by the end of last year, is more and more frequently used for educational purposes as well (most often over creating student groups). We can experience the blurring of professional and private lives of both teachers and students, which is the result of continuous activities performed within a single system (Facebook). Though Facebook was not created for educational purposes, but the number of those, who use it in education, is growing with the utilisation of its advantages (students are registered in the system, known environment, customisable groups, easy sharing, interactive communication, possibility of implementing self-developed applications in the

system). In case of students, this means the extension of their learning time and space, since there is no possibility (or only circumstantially) of registration for only learning purposes while the other registrations for different Facebook activities to be done separately, therefore notifications on new events and group activities are being clicked almost automatically. On the other hand, in case of teachers, the definition of working hours is being changed with accelerated communication and with registration to a single system. Namely, non-linear browsing determined by individual interests often results in contents relating to work (and profession). Beside that, the growing generation Z's attitude to deadlines also intensifies this “urge” of communication (if the deadline is at midnight, the papers will arrive after 11:30 p.m., however they want to get feedback from their teacher instantly). Beside their positive features, these learning groups may often experience some inadequate comments, sharing of inappropriate contents and inactivity of some members.

III. CLOUD-BASED DOCUMENT EDITING

With the spreading of online contents and the expansion of the Internet, there has evolved a growing need for online, cloud-based document editing. Just as it was experienced with the expansion of webmail, the most important aspect is continuous accessibility. Moreover, collaborative (common) document editing is more effective than it has been in the traditional, offline (Microsoft Office) environment. A further advantage is the possibility of determining the constraints of sharing (which users have access to read, to edit etc.), as well as the automatic saving provided by the surface. The most popular such environments are Google Drive (www.drive.google.com) and Microsoft SkyDrive (www.skydrive.live.com). In order to enter these surfaces, it is necessary to have an electronic mailbox of the given firm, which also involves this

service. Within these environments, it is also possible to edit documents similarly to doing it in Microsoft Office (in a simplified form): word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, and preparation of questionnaires in addition.

These tools should be presented in parallel with the Microsoft Office environment, to call attention to their advantages and deficiencies. For the experience of collaborative document editing and the possibility of exact definition of the constraints of sharing, cloud-based systems must be involved in educational processes anyway. Furthermore, teacher candidates often have to perform some surveys with questionnaires. This task is much easier to perform using the Google Form application, which enables filling out questionnaires online and processing the data.

IV. MOODLE

MOOLDE (Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment) is a free source e-learning system shell (LMS - Learning Management System), written in PHP.

It is an important tool for e-learning and blended learning, which provides a framework for preparing courses and for learning over it. There are the following levels of permissions in the system: system administrator (highest level of permissions), course creator (permission to create courses), teacher (may teach in the assigned course – create contents and score), student (learns and performs tasks within the chosen course). Users may define the permissions of other users below their level (the course creator assigns teachers to the course; the teacher registers students to the course).

Various content is provided over this system shell (texts, pictures, optional files, links, multimedia etc.), but the tasks related to them that can be scored are also important (assigning tasks in the form of online text, file, varied types of tests, offline tasks etc.).

This system unifies and presents in a single surface all the services that are otherwise applied by teachers on parallel surfaces, often offline (sharing documents and information, sending messages, evaluation etc.).

It is important that teacher candidates get acquainted with and have experience in learning with these systems, as well as to possibly prepare their own courses within a seminar work, which

enables them to meet the other side of the “virtual teacher’s desk” as well.

V. PREZI

Just as many other activities, the creation of presentations is also moving towards online, cloud-based services. Prezi (www.prezi.com) is an application developed in Hungary that has opened new horizons to creating presentations. The biggest advantage of this application is its cloud-based operation, which means that the presentations can be edited at any time and they can also be shared online with sharing a link. In case of an entirely online application, it is much easier to show images or video files (YouTube) from the Web, in comparison to offline presentations.

The ready presentation can be downloaded in a form of a compatible structure, so that it can be presented even in an environment with no or unsecure internet connection.

With the help of Prezi, our students can get acquainted with one more surface for creating presentations, beside PowerPoint. They can try its functioning, they can compare it with the already known software, they can utilise those online features that are not available in offline programmes for creating presentations.

VI. SOCIAL BOOKMARKS

The biggest advantage of social bookmarks, among which Delicious (www.delicious.com) is the best-known, is their cloud-based and browser-independent appearance. It supports retrieving links, while tagging links enables more effective retrieving and grouping. Beside individual work, the forms of collaborative work are also very important in this surface.

With the help of social bookmarking, students can share and save the sources that they have used for their researches or seminar works, so that a whole group or the entire generation may be involved in editing this “database”.

VII. ONLINE MIND MAPPING

Online mind maps provide a surface that can be edited jointly, and they map a concept and the connecting concepts. These applications are well-suited for processing new topics, classification, revision, but also for planning new topics/activities, as well as in research.

One of the most famous such surfaces in MindMeister (www.mindmeister.com).

VIII. URL SHORTENING

It is often a problem when printing out Internet links that the address is too long. For example, we get the following URL after a simple search with Google (for the “oktatásinformatika” keyword):

https://www.google.hu/#q=oktat%C3%A1sinformatika&safe=off&ei=58KIUZDEEMmO4ATp8YA4&start=0&sa=N&bav=on.2.or.r_qf.&fp=397bd23770057352&biw=1920&bih=989

It is extremely hard and time-consuming to retype such links. Another actual problem is the limitation of the number of characters with some communication channels (140 characters with Twitter).

Applications that shorten Web addresses provide solution for such problems, among which bitly (www.bitly.com) is one of the most popular. With this application, the URL shown above will be shortened to: <http://bit.ly/15mpoFy>.

After registering to bitly, we will have the option to use this application as a collection of links, a bookmark and to share our links.

IX. MAKING WEBSITES AND BLOGGING

User-friendly Web 2.0 applications enable users with average knowledge to prepare websites on their own.

WordPress is one of the most popular and best-known surface of this kind, which is also available in Hungarian and it can be uploaded to any location (to download: <http://hu.wordpress.org/releases/#latest>). Beside the downloadable version, we can also use the online surface after registering to the site www.wordpress.com.

WordPress was originally created as an environment for preparing blogs (series of entries and the responses to them, lined up in chronological order), but nowadays the contents developed here (thanks to numerous add-ons and flexible content management) meet the requirements of modern websites.

Another popular surface for blogging is run by Google, called Blogger (<http://www.blogger.com>). The blogs created over this system are published on the Internet with the blogspot.com ending.

Websites and blogs enrich contents on the Internet, especially if they are created with a specific content. Following professional websites and blogs may be an important element of self-

education, or even of the process of formal education. Preparing websites or writing blogs could be an interesting task and exciting challenge to students. A class or a group may edit an entire website or some parts of an institutional site, as well as they may publish their research results over such surfaces.

X. WIKIPEDIA

Wikipedia is a multilingual (in Hungarian: www.hu.wikipedia.org), world wide encyclopaedia.

Although it is often criticized, mainly because of the inaccuracy of some articles, this surface is one of the most frequently used online information resources (which fact is also proven by Google search results' order where most keywords get the Wikipedia article in the first place). In addition, the sources contain only a small percentage of inaccurate information, and a precondition of all activities in the information society is to verify the authenticity of information found in online space.

It is also not much welcome among some teachers because (beside its inaccuracy) students often copy texts for accomplishing their tasks. However, this problem could be resolved with giving out more specific tasks (for example: instead of “utilisation of computers in schools”, it should say “utilisation of computers in your school”), individually customised tasks or the task of editing the articles (creating information instead of retrieving it).

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