

Web Based Education: Pro's & Con's

This post will list some of the Pro's and Con's of web based education.

Pro's

- Asynchronous
 - Allows access to learning resource independent of time or teacher
 - Allows access independent of geography / institutional affiliation
- Provides access to learning for motivated learners
- Use material in differing formats e.g. pictures, text, video, audio
- Accessible from multiple platforms e.g. desktop computer, tablet, smart phone
- Facilitates formation of educational networks independent of geography
- Allows access to a wide-range of educators and education resources
- Facilitates access to experts within fields e.g. [Dr Smith's ECG Blog](#) or [Amal Mattu's EKG Videos](#)
- Web resources allow educators to store and collate learning resources
- Ease of access
- Information dynamic & current in comparison to journals & text books
- Not limited to single language e.g. embedded Google Translate
- Educational encounters are repeatable e.g. rewatch video, re-read page

Con's

- Asynchronous
 - Requires motivated learner to access resources
- Requires computer equipment
- Requires basic / competent computer literacy
 - For both educator & learner
- Requires internet access
- Associated cost both for educator's, e.g. domain hosting, software; and learners, e.g. computer equipment, internet access fees.
- Access to resources may be limited by institutional network policies
- Information not peer-reviewed
- Difficult to validate on-line learning experience for both learner and educator
- Learner is isolated from teacher – no or limited feedback
- Rapid increase in on-line learning resources with resultant information overload & information dilution
- Limited recognition of on-line learning in training curriculum's
- Ensure professional standards maintained e.g. on-line comments must be appropriate, consent for multimedia must be obtained, ensure confidentiality maintained, in-line with institutional / governing body regulations.
- Division of learners & educator's
 - Those who do and those who do not access web-based / e-learning

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