E-learning and an Adutainment Tool Xtranormal

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Curriculum Vitae

Güleda Düzyol is a doctoral student at Hacettepe University. She completed her master thesis about co-author analysis of librarianship in Turkey. Her research areas are; bibliometrics and statistical research methods of social sciences. She is also working as research assistant at Hacettepe University.

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Abstract

Because of the quickly changing technology a new term called "computer year" appeared in which a year is equal to seven months. With these technological developments e-learning replaced with traditional teaching/learning methods. E-learning provide users to learn efficiently and in a shorter time. There are various of e-learning tools.

Presentation tools like slideshare (http://www.slideshare.net) and prezi (http://prezi.com) that can be used instead of powerpoint and provide you have not to have anything on your computer. Video tools like pinnacle videospin, iSpring (http://www.ispringsolutions.com/), Animoto (http://animoto.com/education) and xtranormal (http://www.xtranormal.com/index) which provide you teaching by creating movies. Social tools that are closely connected to social web like Wordle (http://www.wordle.net/) to create word clouds, Glogster (http://www.glogster.com/) that is a tool similar to prezi but also it can combine to multimedia and ScoopIT (http://www.scoop.it/). Voice tools like voicethread (http://voicethread.com/#home) that is using especially for conferences, webinars and that can combine images, documents and your voice. One of the most adutainment e-learning tool is xtranormal, provides you teaching with creating short movies, animations instead of presentation slides.

This paper aims to explain e-learning tools, especially concentrating on xtranormal, how it works and how to create a short movie using xtranormal with an example movie.

Introduction

E-Learning is the use of technology for learning anytime and anywhere. It contains all forms of electronically supported learning and teaching, web-based learning, computer-based learning etc. (E-learning, 2011; What is e-learning?, 2011). A learning tool is a tool for creating or getting content for yourshelf or for others (C4LPT, 2011). It is important to use the right e-learning tool according to the aim. For this reason it is important to know about e-learning tools.

Some of the E-learning tools will be introduced more detailly in the next part.

E-learning Tools

Slideshare and Prezi are e-learning tools which are used for presentations. Slideshare is one of the most successful and widely used e-learning tool. It provide you sharing your presentations with larger communities and also with social networks like facebook and twitter. You can search Slideshare for the presentations about a certain topic and you can download the ones you liked. Slideshare has 20 million web pages and 55 million visiters. Slideshare is one of the mostly visited web pages worldwide. It supports pdfs, videos and some other kind of file types (Slideshare, http://www.slideshare.net). The other presentation tool that can be used instead of powerpoint is Prezi. It provides a larger area than powerpoint that helps to make better connections between issues and more simple presentations to explain easily. This is important because of the fact that he most simple presentions are generally the best ones. Prezi is a very funny e-learning tool to use and to present (Prezi, http://prezi.com). A good example Prezi found in this link can (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxhqD0hNx4Q).

Wordle, Glogster and ScoopIT can be categorized as social e-learning tools. Wordle is a program which is used to create word clouds. It choose the most important words in your text and create word cloud of that text which helps you to get a summary of your text with a funny and interesting method. For an example, word cloud for the abstract of this paper created using Wordle (Figure 1). There are different images to use for your clouds in the wordle gallery. It is possible to choose from here or to add some new. It is also possible to use wordle to create impressive cover for your presentations (Wordle, http://www.wordle.net/).

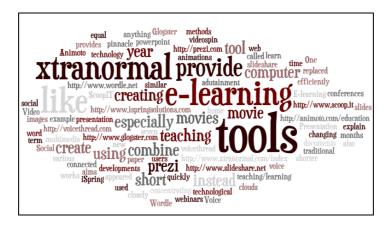


Figure 1. Word cloud for the abstract of this paper

Glogster is similar to prezi, create interactive and free posters or glogs. Different from prezi, it can combine to multimedia. Traditional posters are combination of words, sentences and pictures. It is possible to add video or voice to your posters with Glogster (Glogster,

http://www.glogster.com/). A good example for Glogster can be seen in this link (http://msquayle.edu.glogster.com/medieval-life/).

Another e-learning tool categorized in social tools is ScoopIT that provides preparing your own online journal easily. Other people can follow your journal and you can follow others' journals through facebook or social social networks (http://www.scoop.it/). For an example video you can visit this address (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bnr6QKKcsII&feature=player_embedded).

Voicethread is a voice tool that provide to record your voice on presentations and to combine aimages, documents and your voice. It is especially used for conferences, webinars and it provides to study in collaboration (http://voicethread.com/#home).

iSpring is one of the video tools that is focused on the development of several media software. It provides to add some video or voice to your presentations that will explain the subject effectively. iSpring is especially used by teachers and businessmen because this tool makes you present in many environment without attenting, especially meetings and lessons (iSpring, http://www.ispringsolutions.com/). The other important video tool which is the focus of this paper is Xtranormal, will be introduced with a new title.

Xtranormal

Xtranormal is one of the most adutainment e-learning tool, provides creating short movies and animation films instead of written presentations. Xtranormal is very funny and enjoyable to be an e-learning tool. It is possible to address anyone with Xtranormal. After becoming a member of the Xtranormal website, you will choose actors for your presentation and you will add a mission to each actor. Second step in Xtranormal is chosing a place to play. Last step is writing texts to speech for your actors and to add motion to your actors. You can choose various languages for speeches. You can share your film on the internet especially on youtube (Xtranormal, http://www.xtranormal.com/index).

Example movie for Xtranormal will be our presentation of this paper.

Conclusion

E-learning is a widely developing topic of the last years. The number of e-learning tools are also increases. We need to know about some of the e-learning tools to learn and to teach efficiently.

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