Information Literacy Online

An Erasmus+ Project to Improve Students' Competencies

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Keywords: information literacy; MOOC; education projects

1 Motivation and background

Information Literacy (IL) is "the set of integrated abilities encompassing the reflective discovery of information, the understanding of how information is produced and valued, and the use of information in creating new knowledge and participating ethically in communities of learning" (American Library Association, 2016). IL as a social key competence is particularly essential in post-secondary education and research. According to many studies (e.g. Katz 2007; Rubinić et al., 2013), student's information literacy levels are generally low. Analyses show the need for an attractive tutorial which can be developed on a broad basis of available material. Accordingly, in November 2016 the EU project ILO was started with the aim to develop, evaluate and disseminate a multilingual Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) for developing information literacy focusing on higher education students.

2 Expected outcome

MOOCs are online courses with no entry barriers aiming at unlimited participation. The ILO project will at first concentrate on information literacy elements which are relevant for all subjects/disciplines. Examples for such general information literacy elements are Boolean operators, basic principles in knowledge organization, or basic knowledge of copyright law. IL also covers subject-specific elements, so the project will demonstrate the applicability of the generic information literacy MOOC to two exemplary disciplines: Business Administration and Psychology.

A major shortcoming of current IL courses is the lack of self-assessment components. Therefore, a central innovative approach of our MOOC will be the implementation of technology based assessment components which allow students to get feedback on their learning success. The MOOC content will be developed for six European cultural and language groups: English, German, Spanish, Catalan, Slovenian and Croatian. The multilingual approach will not only consider formal translation but also cultural-specific differences in the various realizations. The project will strongly endeavor to evaluate the MOOC in several phases and with different methods.

References

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