

# Chapter 1

## E-Learning

### 1.1 Introduction to E-Learning

The term *e-learning* refers to a number of different methods, concepts and techniques. It is therefore difficult to confine the term sharply. Thus, in literature, there are different definitions of what e-learning is and what it is supposed to be. Rosenberg (2006) defines e-learning as follows:

**E-learning** is the use of Internet technologies to create and deliver a rich learning environment that includes a broad array of instruction and information resources and solutions, the goal of which is to enhance individual and organizational performance.

Rosenberg defines e-learning purely by terms of instruction and information resources. Further, *the use of Internet technologies* is seen as a necessary condition for e-learning. The definition does not take into account educational software.

Richert (2007) criticises the definition of Rosenberg because she sees no reason for such equality of terms. She constitutes her view with the fact that electronic (learning) applications are not limited to the Internet. Richert (2007) defines e-learning as:

Unter E-learning wird das computergestützte Lernen (vorwiegend von Einzelpersonen) mit hypertextbasierten, multimedialen, interaktiven Systemen verstanden, das zeit- und ortsunabhängig sowohl online als auch offline erfolgen kann.

in English:

E-learning is defined as computer-aided learning (mainly by individuals) with hypertext- and multimedia-based interactive systems. The learning process can take place independent of time and location both online and offline.

It is important to note that the term is broader than the definition of Rosenberg, but is restricted to *learning systems*. That means concretely that electronic media like dictionaries may be included in e-learning systems as a tool, however, they can only form a part of a more general e-learning environment. Electronic media itself is not necessarily understood as e-learning system.

### 1.2 Classification of E-Learning Systems

E-learning systems can be classified by their degree of freedom for user interaction. On one end of the scale there are *Drill-and-Practice* programs that do not allow for freedom of interaction. On the other end there are interactive programs allowing the user to interact and control the application. Judged by the definition of Richert this classification does not seem very suitable (Richert 2007).

Another possibility to classify e-learning systems is the kind of storage media used. This classification allows for a distinction between *online* and *offline* e-learning systems. *Offline systems* are those systems that are offered on passive storage media like floppy disk, CD-ROM. Offline systems are usually called *Computer Based Training* (CBS) systems. *Online systems* on the other hand are web server based systems that fall under the category of *Web Based Training* (WBS) systems (Richert 2007).

Additionally, Richert (2007) defines *hybrid systems* that are CBT systems but use the Internet as a means of communication with other learners. Table 1.1 shows the classification of e-learning systems after (Richert 2007).

		Using the WWW as storage medium	
		Yes	No
Using the Internet for communication	No	WBT	CBT
	Yes	Learning platforms	Hybrid CBT

Table 1.1: Classification of e-learning systems

### 1.3 Technical Context of E-Learning

### 1.4 Pedagogical Context of E-Learning

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### 1.5 E-Learning of Languages

richert: s. 95

### 1.6 Japanese E-Learning Software

put all your bashing and criticism here

computer assisted language learning: (Bailey and Meurers 2008)

(Zimmer 2009) Bildung durch e-learning. allgemeine aspekte (Stahlmann 2004) spezielle aspekte bezueglich han-trainer pro (Hettinger 2008) wie kann man e-learning in der schule einsetzen? e-learning: grundlagen, modelle, perspektiven

(Richert 2007) breite einfuehrung in e-learning theorie.

(Seel and Ifenthaler 2009) sehr breite allgemeine einfuehrung ins online-lernen (Ivašin 2009) kritik an der technischen dominanz in elektronisch unterstuetzten lern- und lehrprozessen.

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