

Assessing a case of Web use for face teaching support

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Presential teaching and Web pages

- growing use of Information and Communication Technologies to support education activities, and within students day to day life
- the World Wide Web introduces the widespread use of a distributed information system to access huge amounts of multimedia information
 - information not structured and not validated, but
 - free to use and very easy to reuse and deploy
- provide an opportunity to complement presential teaching with structured information to be explored

e-*, e-Learning, m-Learning, e-etc!



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The case study: problem

- two consecutive editions in the academic year of 2000/01 (a semester Information System class in higher education)
 - the study focus the use of Web pages to complement presential teaching outside classroom as a non oriented activity performed by an individual or a group of students
 - compare the computer use, Internet use and the class Web pages use by students

Web pages -> <http://www.ufp.pt/~lmbg>

Hypothesis and study variables

- considering the particular environment of the Information System class:
 - ? do computer skills have some relation with the use of the class Web pages?
 - ? do the Internet skills have some relation with the use of the class Web pages?

Data gathering and statistical tests

- a questionnaire has been used and passed in the classroom to the available students (random):
 - 31 questions covering the three skill: computer, Internet and class Web pages usage
 - 74 collected questionnaires from 167 students (44,31%)
- a number of statistical tests were performed:
 - use of SPSS statistical package to perform data analysis
 - descriptive measures, correlation tests and regression to compare and analyse each variable influence

Findings summary (I)

- ? it has been found a medium correlation between time spent with computers and its usage frequency;
- ? it has not been found any correlation between the time spent with the Internet and the number of Web access being made;
- ? it has been found a strong correlation between class Web pages utility and its interest for the students

Findings summary (II)

- considering computer and Internet use, it is possible to say that both skills and usage seems to be different according the student majors
 - a strategy to explore class Web pages need to take into account the major and interest of each group of students otherwise we can loose their motivation
- the class Web pages were considered as an effective help by students, regardless of their skills and usage patterns, both with computers and Internet

Restate hypothesis?

? do computer use skills have some relation with the use of the class Web pages?

Not as direct as it may be expected:

greater computer use skills does not necessarily corresponds greater use of Web pages

? do the Internet skills have some relation with the use of the class Web pages?

Yes, but these skills are less important than the interest and motivation concerning available information.

Content seems to influence Web pages selection

Three recommendations...

- ... when developing Web pages to support presential teaching:

- ? user profile and its knowledge background may influence computer and Internet use;

- ? develop the Web pages the more informative as possible;

- ? students with different computer and Internet skills may perceive Web pages utility in different ways;