Use of Technology in the Classroom: E-Book and Online Resources

Prof. Dr. Sankaranarayana Chandramohan

Link: http://palmbeachstate.libguides.com/content.php?pid=131521&sid=4050222

In recent years, E-Book (Electronic Book) is becoming more popular than conventional textbooks. It is convenient to carry around, easy to use from anywhere one has Wi-Fi access, user-friendly, and highly cost-effective. Also, E-Book is interactive, more visually engaging (vivid images, animations, video clips provide virtual reality), helps to review content, provides self-tests/games to improve testing skills, and can be printed for use like any conventional textbook. The present generation of students as we know are more tuned into and well connected with the digital world. When we use the E-Book for instruction unlike conventional methods, students seem to be more involved and engaged. Some of the courses are harder to teach as the content needs more visualization for understanding concepts than others, for example, human anatomy and physiology, chemistry, physics. In Human Anatomy & Physiology lab class, students learn various structures of bones, muscles, and brain with models and specimens. The class time available for learning the content is not adequate for some students. If the students want to review the content again or if they miss a class, students have an option to use the content in the E-Book. The virtual images of the same models/specimens, animations, live lectures, and video clips provide a virtual-reality experience. Also, they can zoom into certain regions of the specimen much closer than one can do with human eyes. The images used in the E-Book relate to the originals in size, provides multiple views, and arrows guide and help prepare for testing. The E-Book has been posted online for student use on the Anatomy and Physiology Resource LibGuide hosted by our college. Also, this website allows a faculty to revise or update content, track the number of users (hits), and allow for sharing and use by other faculty and students. This project started as a single video clip made for a student who needed more help, and the video was shared and used by many in the class. As a team, we made videos of every lab session and the videos were posted on YouTube, and eventually became a video playlist, a study-guide and a complete E-Book. Our E-Book(s) are widely used by anatomy students and faculty. The surveys and feedback from students and faculty on the different aspects of the E-Book are excellent and encouraging. We hope this success story inspires the development of such user-friendly, interactive and cost-effective tools for student success. We acknowledge the inputs from Mr. Gary Moo Young and support from Associate Dean Prof. Carlos Ramos, and Ms. Connie Tuisku. This project is a dedication to all that we do at Palm Beach State College for our students.