MEFANET after four years of progressing: 4-D model for digital contents quality assessment

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The idea of sharing educational digital contents among Czech and Slovak medical faculties occurred for the first time in 2006. Soon afterwards in 2007, all seven Czech medical faculties as well as all three Slovak medical faculties have formally joined the brand new network MEFANET (MEdical FAculties NETwork). One of its main objectives is enabling authors to publish their electronic teaching materials in a system without any licensing fees. MEFANET has decided to develop an original and uniform solution for educational web portals, which are used, together with a central gate, to offer and share digital educational contents. In this respect, a unique collaborative environment, which is full of shared resources, has been growing. It is rather an e-publishing system than a commonly known and used learning management system – LMS. The e-publishing system consists of ten standalone educational portal instances, which are run on each of the participating schools, and one central gate, which allows students to find study materials from all participating schools at once. The portal instances are connected to authentication services of the involved schools, so that students and staff do not have to define and remember ten new logins and passwords. Recent developments have been focused on a new set of tools for quality evaluation of the published contents. This set of tools is called here as „4-D model for digital contents quality assessment“ – the following four dimensions will be presented in detail: 1) review, 2) typological classification, 3) level of the target group, 4) users’ self-study score. The 4-D model promises a wider range of tools for organizing the published contents as well as a possibility to present the contents completed by comments from tutors selected from expert medical societies.