MOODLEMEFANET - CURRENT STATUS

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Abstract

MoodleMefanet, environment for creating e-learning courses was started last year. MoodleMefanet is available at the web moodle.mefanet.cz for all medical faculties in Czech and Slovak Republic. The system has been connected to the Shibboleth service, so all the students of medicine can sign in with their own entering data (for Slovak medical faculties there is possibility to enter the system through the creation of the account in the MoodleMefanet). For the users of the system there are prepared two handbooks – handbook for the students and handbook for the teachers. There was prepared preliminary model of the evaluation of the quality of e-learning courses. The model is being reviewed by the experts from Pedagogical faculty.

Key words: LMS Moodle, MoodleMefanet, the evaluation model

Introduction

LMS Moodle is software package for creating and service of electronic courses on the internet. It is constantly evolving project, it was designed on the base on social constructivist approach to education. The system was come into being 20th August 2002 and its author is Martin Dougiamas. LMS Moodle is an Open Source system, so it is possible to add to the system installation new modules, which are either created within the global community associated about Moodle or it is possible to generate the modules for own organization, All modules can be offered for all Moodle community and contribute to the development of all system. The advantage of Moodle is the fact, that it was developed at the university and it is adapted to its needs.

Nowadays it is currently registered worldwide for more than 52 000 installations. The system is used by more than 37 million students and teachers. In the Czech Republic there are registered 394 installations [1].
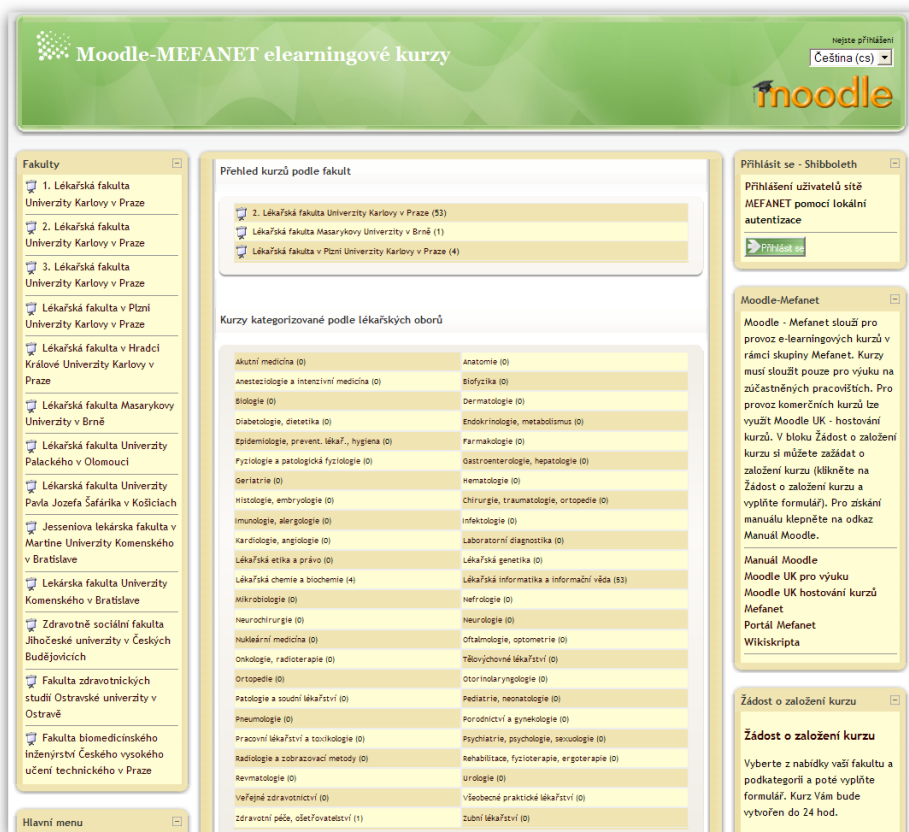
LMS Moodle at the Charles University

Moodle is operated at the Charles University since 2004. Experience gained in operating this system at the Charles University is now used in the operation of Moodle MEFANET.

MoodleMefanet

In 2010 Moodle for the network at MEFANET moodle.mefanet.cz was launched to install (fig.1).

Figure 1: Moodle Mefanet Home page

In this installation, every teacher of Czech or Slovak medical faculty may request the establishment of the course by requests for establishing course (https://moodle.mefanet.cz/form_1/form). The system is connected

to registration by Shibboleth, so participants are authenticated on the faculties of their local entering data, so it is reduced the necessity of the formation of other entering data to the system.

There are available to handbooks for the users at the web (https://moodle.mefanet.cz/course/view.php?id=81); the handbook for students and the handbook for teachers. The key to enrolment, where the manuals are positioned it is possible to apply at jitka.feberova@ruk.cuni.cz.

The first intercollegiate e-course of biochemistry was created and also courses which will serve to all participants MEFANET network; Creation of e-learning course in Moodle, National Medical Library - public access to specialized information resources and services, and How to find (not only) in medical databases 2nd Faculty of Medicine. These courses will be ready by the end of 2011.

The evaluation of the quality of e-learning courses

In the field of creation of e-learning courses it is necessary to solve the question of the evaluation of e-learning courses. That is why on the base of valid international standards and [2-5], a framework for assessing the quality of e-learning courses and on the basis of an model for the evaluation of the preparatory phase of the course and phase of the implementation of the course. The model is being reviewed by the experts from Pedagogical faculty of the Charles University. The model will be modified on the base of this review.

Based on this model a questionnaire for assessing the quality of e-learning courses will be created in 2012 that will allow evaluation of courses and it will provide feedback to the authors in the creation and operation of e-learning courses.

Conclusion

Based on experience from the operation of Moodle for teaching at the Charles University from the years 2004-2010 shows that stable and continuous professional technical support for users leads to the spontaneous activity of teachers and creating e-learning supports for students

If this is being done without methodological support (which was provided for example for grants solvers at the Charles University from 2004 - 2008) the authors do not use optimally all the possibilities and LMS course creation process is encumbered by some mistakes and increased labor input.

The external examination of the results is not always assured.

Attempt to facilitate the work of the authors of e-learning courses was the creation of handbooks and design model for assessing the quality of e-learning courses.

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