

Developing Learning Materials for Mobile Learning

With the increasing use of mobile devices to access learning materials, educators need to design learning materials for delivery on mobile devices. Many educators make the mistake of using existing learning materials that were developed for large displays such as, desktop computer screens for delivery on mobile devices which have small displays. Also, existing learning materials are developed in large chunks which may not be suitable for mobile learning. The author is suggesting that learning materials for mobile devices should be developed in the form of learning objects. There has been increasing use of learning objects in online instruction. If designed properly, the learning objects could be linked to form a complete lesson for delivery on mobile devices. One of the major characteristics of learning objects is they should be independent, stand alone learning segments so that when students complete the learning experience with the learning object, they accomplish some learning outcome. Delivering learning materials as independent learning segments is important in mobile learning since learners may complete their learning in short time segments. The learning objects can be used to provide just in time learning for students and can be linked to form complete courses that can be taken for credit. Learning materials for mobile devices must also contain information rich content for display on the mobile device screen. Designers must use graphical strategies such as spatial organizer, graphical outline, pictures, illustrations, etc. Use of these strategies will minimize the amount of reading on the mobile device screen.

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