A Conceptual Framework for Web-Based Authoring System

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After reflecting on the various factors critical to open and flexible learning environments, Khan (1997) developed a Framework for Web-based learning. Various WBL factors are clustered into the following eight dimensions: pedagogical, technological, interface design, evaluation, management, resource support, ethical and institutional. AuthorWeb - a comprehensive authoring system is rooted in the WBL framework. The inception of AuthorWeb's development began with a vision of providing a tool that would assist educators, trainers and course developers to create meaningful online courses without prior skills or knowledge in instructional design, computer programming and issues critical to distance learning environments. AuthorWeb's development process benefits from the input of various substantiated perspectives, including instructional design, cognitive and educational psychology, curriculum development, distance education, innovation and change, telecommunication, database, artificial intelligence, software engineering, and media production.