Doing research on web-based learning

Leena Kuure, Univ. of Oulu, Finland; Saarenkunnas Maarit, Univ. of Oulu, Finland; Taalas Peppi, Univ. of Jyväskylä, Finland;

Interaction in technology-supported collaborative learning environments can be beneficial for learning in many ways (e.g. Lehtinen 1997, Järvelä & Häkkinen 2000). At their best, they may help their users to transform the practices of learning and instruction. As for the research perspective into web-based learning, many aspects of the working process can be captured through the electronic data, automatically stored throughout the study project. However, we should carefully consider to what extent it is possible to make generalizations concerning the effects of technology on learning outcomes with the aid of a single source of data. A central concern related to the research of technologically mediated communication and learning is the choice of an appropriate research approach to capture the complexity of the phenomena under investigation. This poster discusses a discourse approach to the study of web-based learning.