

A classification of eLearning tools based on the applied multimedia

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Abstract This paper proposes a classification that should help understanding key aspects of multimedia application in eLearning tools. The classification tries to cover important aspects of multimedia application in eLearning tools: communication channels and exchange of different types of contents throughout the channels, understanding in communication, and the ways of object manipulation in the user-tool interaction. Types of contents are classified according to the senses they affect on both sides of communication channels. The paper presents characteristics of 30 representative tools through a uniformly structured text. The presented tools are analyzed according to the proposed classification. A view of the future challenges, based on an analysis of the global trends in the area, is given.

Keywords Multimedia tools · eLearning tools · Multimedia in education · Applied multimedia

1 Introduction

There is an old and frequently cited saying: “When you hear - you forget, when you see - you remember, when you do - you understand,” written by famous Confucius over 2500 years ago. It took human civilization lot of time to create the technology needed to exploit such wisdom in education fully. According to Confucius, education process cannot be based on verbal explanations only, which was the primary educational method for many years. Instead, a good method of visual representation of knowledge must be used, and even then, it is not enough for a person to understand, but only to remember. In order to make someone truly understand (know) something, he/she has to be able to do it. That is why the role of interactive multimedia

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