

Selected further reading

The following is a selected list of reading and sources for those of you interested in pursuing the concept of MLearning further. In these sessions I have only touched on some aspects but this is a burgeoning field in education and there is lots going on! Here are some places you can look, with notes from me on each one.

Technology Reports

The Horizon Report

<http://wp.nmc.org/horizon2011/>

The Horizon Report is “a research-oriented effort that seeks to identify and describe emerging technologies likely to have considerable impact on teaching, learning, and creative expression within higher education over three time horizons — one year or less, two to three years, and four to five years.” This is one of the first places I look for new developments in edtech, as it is clear, accessible and very readable. Highly recommended first stop.

Courses and conferences

mLearning in Practice course

<http://www.theconsultants-e.com/training/courses/mllearning.aspx>

The Consultants-E are the only group I know of in English language teaching that are offering training in MLearning. This is a short course that takes place entirely online, and can even be done using only a smartphone with an internet connection. The Consultants-E are experts in the field of education and technology, especially language teaching education.

Mobile learning conference and expo

<http://www.elearningguild.com/content.cfm?selection=doc.1603>

While I haven't been to an MLearning conference, I know that there are many of them around already. I found this website quite interesting and accessible. It's good to browse through conference abstracts to see what people are currently discussing. This kind of information is far more up-to-date than other stuff I found.

Research and activities

Towards a theory of MLearning, Mike Sharples et al

www.mlearn.org.za/CD/papers/Sharples.pdf

I decided to include this as an example of earlier research on a theory of MLearning. This paper has been quoted in other areas, although since it's 2005 it already feels quite out-of-date. However, it makes some interesting points about learning in a cyber, connected and mobile world.

Various papers on MLearning research

<http://www.m-learning.org/knowledge-centre/research>

This is a collection of links, ebooks and articles from the Cambridge based group Tribal, which specialises in MLearning.

MLearning technology and activity ideas

<http://www.m-learning.org/archive/which.shtml>

This page is from a European project on MLearning for teenagers. It outlines several different technologies involved in MLearning and how they can be used with learners (from sms messages to voice xml, geocache use and apps). Easy to read.

Corporate initiatives

Apple in education

<http://www.apple.com/education/>

Has lots of examples of how Macs, iPads and iPod touches are being used in education.

Blackberry Education solutions

<http://us.blackberry.com/business/industry/education/>

Showcases case studies of how Blackberries have been used in educational settings.

Apps

British Council Mlearning page

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/mobile-learning>

The British Council page of apps, one of the earliest groups in ELT to get in on the app trade.

Macmillan Apps

<http://www.macmillaneducationapps.com/>

The Macmillan Apps page. Includes the various dictionary apps and the excellent Sounds App.