

Multi-media and the internet as educational tools for solving the problems of ergonomics and safety

Virve Siirak
Tallinn Technical University
Tallinn Estonia

Abstract

In this paper it is argued that multimedia and the internet can increase learning and teaching awareness in ergonomics and safety education. A personal experience of internet based learning in Tallinn Technical University and the creation of the website with all study material of the course of Science of Risk and Safety and Ergonomics for the students which is available are presented as examples. Students very much appreciate multi-media and visual material.

New opportunities for transferring knowledge

Bradley (2001) wrote *“In all academic environments there are nowadays increasing opportunities for interactivity in research, documentation and learning. Networks between universities are built and growing in number. What we call “knowledge transfer “ is an important phenomenon in present society. The technology that is now used to transfer knowledge was earlier confined to experts. This is no longer true, learning in itself is changing: we can now be co-workers and colleagues when shaping new knowledge. Education on distance is becoming more and more common. The teacher’ s role and the student’ s role have changed, it is more a two way instead of a one-way process... ICT (Information and Communication Technology) involves a transfer of power connected with knowledge. A breakdown of the traditional hierarchical structure is occurring. Long-distance work, tuition from a distance and long-distance services already provide new prerequisites for the roles of regions. Information Management is now Knowledge Management- due to the more sophisticated technology mix. We will probably reach Creativity Management; Fantasy Management and Trust Management in the future”*.

Internet based teaching and learning experience in Tallinn Technical University

In September 1999 a new ergonomics laboratory with computers was installed in Tallinn Technical University. These facilities help to inspire to search Ergonomics and Safety information in Cyberspace for their studies (Siirak, 2000).

In D. de Waard, K.A. Brookhuis, J. Moraal, and A. Toffetti (2002), *Human Factors in Transportation, Communication, Health, and the Workplace* (pp. 471 - 472). Maastricht, the Netherlands: Shaker.