

Call for Papers

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Special Issue on

“Innovative technologies for the seamless integration of formal and informal learning”

As multiple portable devices with advanced computing and networking capacities are now prevailing in our lives, we are seeking the possibilities of new types of learning methods by means of using these devices not only indoors, but also in wider range of places and times.

We consider ubiquitous learning as a learning technology that exploits number of cooperative small nodes with computing and/or communication capabilities – from handheld terminals to RFID or QR codes. Ubiquitous learning has made it possible to expose ourselves to learning occasions in a number of environments - tangible or virtual - where we can take advantage of these new technologies.

What are the main challenges of access to new learning methods? How can we best cope with these changes in our lives? What are the possible drawbacks? These are the background questions of this Special Issue of the Educational Technology & Society Journal.

Given the speed of change and the increased demand of flexibility in being able to build knowledge and to adapt themselves to new forms of collaboration and work, the capability of successfully exploiting the increasing variety and accessibility of learning occasions becomes a crucial issue for both companies and individuals.

Along with this, we must consider the ever growing interest in the use of social media and applications in order to realise bottom-up, participative alternatives to the traditional teaching/ learning approach.

All this is the basis of the growing attention for rethinking the current view of e-learning, as far as the educational models and the corresponding technical solutions are concerned.

This special issue aims at surveying the current research activities in such a multifaceted scenario. Accordingly, we solicit research papers addressing the following themes:

- integrating formal and informal approaches to learning in technological contexts, and
- enhancing the educational power of informal learning environments by scaffolding students in their use for out-the-lecture-room activities by means of innovative technological affordances.

Research papers on practical as well as on theoretical topics and problems are invited (pure application-oriented papers without strong research component are not preferred). Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Mobile and Ubiquitous learning environments to support training on the job, K12 scaffolding, institutional education, lifelong learning
- Mobile, Distributed and Pervasive Computing to support formal and non-formal learning integration
- Web Services for knowledge representation, retrieval, creation
- Synchronous learning environments for formal and non-formal learning integration
- Virtual worlds for scaffolded learning
- Mash-up technologies to develop E-portfolio Systems, Personal Learning Environments, and Personal Knowledge Spaces for knowledge creation and sharing
- Social Network Analysis and Mining for integrating formal and non-formal learning
- Microblogging to scaffold episodic e-learning occasions and to support collaborative Work
- Augmented Reality and environmental markers or sensors to support location-based and context-aware learning activities

Special Issue Guest Editors

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Important dates

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First decision: 10 April 2012

Revised manuscripts due: 15 May 2012

Feedback on revised manuscripts: 1 July 2012

Final manuscript due: 10 September 2012

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Submission guideline

The manuscripts should be original, unpublished, and not in consideration for publication elsewhere at the time of submission to Educational Technology & Society and during the review process. The manuscripts must be within 7000 words (including everything - title, author names, affiliations, abstract, keywords, main body, references, appendices - everything). Please carefully follow the author guidelines at <http://www.ifets.info/rev.php?pub=true> while preparing your manuscript. To get familiarity with the style of the journal, please see a previous issue at <http://www.ifets.info/>. All manuscripts should be in WORD format and submitted via email to the Guest Editors at tommaso.leo@univpm.it, marygz@ge.imati.cnr.it and patrizia.ghislandi@unitn.it. All manuscripts will be subject to the usual high standards of peer review at ETS Journal, through a double blind review.

<p>The Educational Technology & Society Journal is included in the Thomson Scientific Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) with impact factor of 1.066 according to Thomson Scientific 2010 Journal Citations Report.</p>
