

Information technology in the learning process

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Management Consultants play a vital role in helping large business organizations in the procurement of Information Technology and related services.

They bring a level of external expertise that is often lacking in the organization. This being in subject matter expert areas that help the organization find the most optimum solution for the business. Certain large corporate firms like IBM and HP have become global service solutions providers offering customized solutions around open architecture and their own hardware and communications systems. Similarly Enterprise Solutions like Oracle, J. D. Edwards and SAP offer large-scale systems integration advice for the placement of international business information systems.

The important factor in the implementation of computer technology is that it should not take a central role over that of the teaching process but viewed as having an important supportive role. It is an essential aid to studying and learning and a facilitator for completing essential research and tuition modules. In addition the videoing of important lectures, in overcrowded lecture theatres across the country, has allowed students to listen on a basis and increased the absorption rate of the main points resulting from the lecture.

The mobility factor of laptops and notebooks has enabled the student to carry a library of information, lecture notes and other educational data in a portable carrying case. The concept of e-learning has become one of the fastest development components of the educational field. It embraces computer hardware, supporting educational software and sophisticated

wireless based communications. It has liberated the student and changed the way of learning forever. There is no longer a need to haul around a number of heavy books.

Electronic Readers (E-Readers) can store hundreds of files that can be inserted in a computer or PC that has an access port. The technology is also available (Shanks, P. 2417) and providing you have gathered the requisite information, you can continue studying after the college or university has shut down for the day. Equally, week-end trips away means that you can take your entire study component with you e. G. Tutorial notes, lecture notes, study modules, books, research papers, video clips etc. All instantly available for audio / video interaction from your computer notebook or personal computer (PC). (Shanks, P. 010) One of the emerging trends is mobility and miniaturization. The technology is increasing in capacity but reducing in size. We have seen the new tablet computers and how mobile phones are being expanded in capability to offer a full multi-media experience. This has increased the communication element allowing students to communicate with one another and transmit files and other information by means of hand held devices. The future may well be astonishing if we move into the concept of neural networks and the ability to have a small device attached to the ear that replaces the hand held device.