iwm
Institut für Wissensmedien
Knowledge Media Research Center
kmrc

www.e-teaching.org

Goals and Background

Digital media challenge higher education institutions to derive use from the innovative possibilities for information and communication processes. Nevertheless, a broad and sustainable integration of e-learning into the everyday working routines at the universities has not yet taken place. At present, ICT-based teaching and learning practices are still rarely used naturally along with traditional and established methods in the framework of regular study. The scene is still dominated by few pioneers. Media competence can be seen as a key qualification for teachers and students in virtual learning settings. Especially academic teachers need to receive continuous support for a didactically informed use of digital media and the application of innovative teaching and learning practices. By strengthening media competence of academic teachers the qualification portal e-teaching.org aims to promote new teaching possibilities offered by multimedia and telemedia technologies.
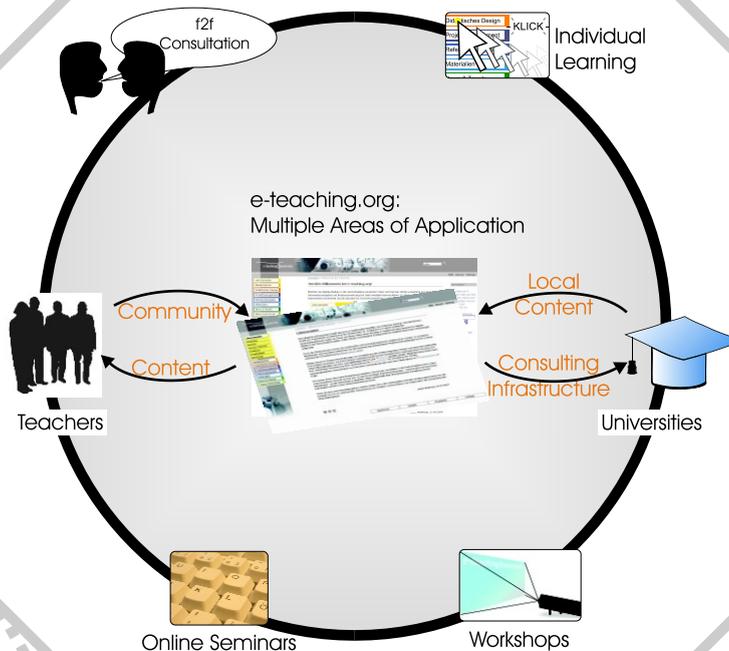
Project Architecture

The portal e-teaching.org is a project of the Bertelsmann Foundation and the Heinz Nixdorf Foundation in the common program "Bildungswege in der Informationsgesellschaft" (educational pathways in the information society). The portal is developed and evaluated by the Knowledge Media Research Center in Tübingen. The technical realization is conducted by the University of Bielefeld in close cooperation with the German Zope User Group. A strategic alliance with the State Government of North Rhine Westphalia and several pilot universities allows for testing the application of the portal in a blended learning context.

Content & Information Design

To suit the heterogeneous target group of academic teachers the portal e-teaching.org has to offer both a "low threshold" and a "no ceiling" access to the possibilities of integrating new media in teaching. The content is structured along the lines of the users individual motivation and qualifications and offers several access paths, like e.g. media technologies, teaching scenarios, good practice examples or didactical design. The navigation of the portal is designed to motivate an explorative and self-directed use. To avoid confusion the depth of navigation is limited to four levels. In addition, we use colour and symbols ("key visuals") as an important aid to support the users orientation. Furthermore, clickable maps support the comprehension of the complex content structures and offer a direct way to the deeper navigation levels.

Multiple Areas of Application

The portal e-teaching.org is suitable for self-directed learning of individual teachers, as well as for hybrid qualification concepts which combine the portal and its contents with advisory services. Local advisory service teams at associated universities support teaching staff by using the online portal as consulting and learning infrastructure. Furthermore, the use of the portal in consultation of academic teachers is tested in various settings: Currently the blended learning approach is transferred to other universities with different advisory service infrastructures. Moreover, the portal is used in short-term qualification initiatives like online tutorials and workshops.

f2f Consultation

KLICK

Individual Learning

e-teaching.org:
Multiple Areas of Application

Community Content

Local Content

Consulting Infrastructure

Teachers
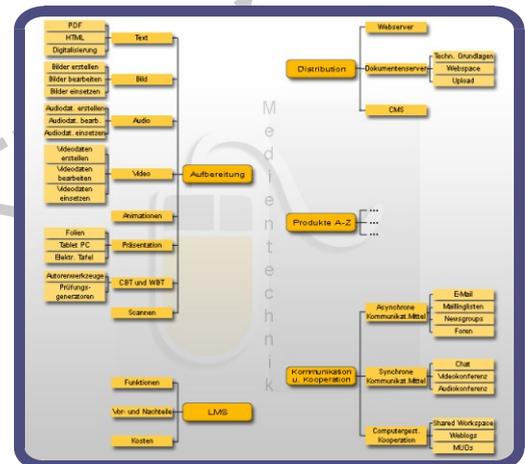
Universities

Online Seminars

Workshops

Localization

A key feature of the portal e-teaching.org is the possibility to enrich the overall content by adding location specific information. To be successfully integrated in institutional qualification routines, the portal has to be accepted by e-teaching consultants as an everyday-working tool. Therefore advisory service teams of associated universities are able to include additional material to the portal. This feature allows the consultants to inform users about technical equipment and contact persons and to present service and support structures. Users can select their individual institution to see content that is specific to their university.

Technical Infrastructure

The editorial system of e-teaching.org is based on Plone, an open source content management system (CMS). Plone provides workflow support, pre-configured roles and editing status, a set of content types, keyword management, a search engine, and forums. The "rapid prototyping" concept gives a framework for further development. In this concept, a prototype is provided at an early stage in the course of a project. This prototype conforms to the basic requirements and is evaluated and modified if necessary.

Global site with local information: The access sections are found on the left hand side of the screen. The menu on the right offers special information in deeper navigation paths. The marked sections show local content.

Mindmap: The structure of each access section is visualised with hierarchic maps. You see the structure of "Media Technology".