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20 Definitions in 20 Years: Exploring the Evolution of Blended Learning Definitions from 2003-2022

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Abstract : The goal of this research is to explore the evolution of the concept of "blended learning" over a twenty-year period, to see whether or not the conceptualization has remained consistent or if it has become either more specific or more general. To achieve this goal, the term "blended learning" (and variations) was searched for in various bibliographical repositories for each year 2003-2022 to locate a highly cited paper that is not behind a paywall, to locate unique definitions that would be freely available to all academics each year. Each of the twenty unique definitions is explored to identify how they categorize both the Classroom Component and the Computer Component of blended learning, as well as identify which discipline each definition originates from and which country it comes from to see if there are any significant geographical variations. Based on this analysis, trends that appear in the definitions are noted, as well as an overall interpretation of the notion of "Blended Learning."

Keywords: blended learning, definitions of blended learning, e-learning, thematic searches

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