

The Role of Interactive White Boards towards Achieving Transactional Learning in the Context of Open Distance Learning

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Abstract : Due to the need for higher education in South Africa, the country experiences a rapid growth in open distance learning, especially in rural areas. It is difficult for people to enrol fulltime at contact universities, owing to work and financial constraints. The Unit for Open Distance Learning (UODL) at the North-West University (NWU), Potchefstroom campus, South Africa was established in 2013 with its main function to deliver open distance learning programmes to 30 000 students from the Faculties of Education Sciences, Theology and Health Sciences. With the use of interactive whiteboards (IWBs), the NWU and UODL are now able to deliver lectures to students concurrently at 60 regional open learning centres across Southern Africa as well as to an unlimited number of individuals with Internet access worldwide. Although IWBs are not new, our initiative is to use them more extensively in order to create more contact between lecturers and students. To be able to ensure and enhance quality education it is vital to determine students' perceptions on the delivery of programmes by means of IWBs. Therefore, the aim of the study is to explore students' perceptions for the use of IWBs in the delivery of programmes in terms of Moore's Theory of Transactional Distance.

Keywords : interactive white board, open distance learning, technology, transactional learning

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