Mobile Learning in Open and Distance Education: Issues & Challenges

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What Constitutes Mobile Devices?

- Hand Phone
- Smart Phone
- PDA
- Laptop
- Palmtop
- MP3 Player

- Infra-red
- Bluetooth
- GPRS
- WLAN
- Wi-Fi
- GSM
What Drives Mobile Learning?

Accessibility
- Broadband
- Wi-Fi
- Hotspots
- 3G
- Wi-Max

Cost
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- Lower level notebooks being developed at US 100
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- Hand held devices getting cheaper

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How Accessible and Cost-Effective is Mobile Learning?

A Comparison of Different Open Distance Education Technologies

Less affordable Economies
- Print Resources
- Face-to-face
- Radio
- Television
- Audio tapes
- Video tapes

Cost-effective and Affordable

Mobile Technologies

More Affordable Economies
- Internet Video Conferencing
- Internet Audio Conferencing
- Electronic Discussion
- Boards
- Emails
- HTML Content
- Courseware (CD)
- Audio Clips (mp3)
- Video Clips (mpeg4)

Cost-effective and Affordable
Why Embark on Mobile Learning?

• To suit learner learning styles
  ➔ High level of interactivity
  ➔ Multi-tasking

• To suit new learning theories
  ➔ Collaborative learning
  ➔ Authentic Learning

• To capitalise unique capabilities of mobile technologies
  ➔ Flexibility
  ➔ Mobility

• To share effective learning content more readily
  ➔ Enable more learners to enjoy meaningful learning

• To capitalise on the accessibility
  ➔ Estimated that by 2010 almost half the world will have access to mobile web.
What are the Issues and Challenges?

- Instructional Design
- Content
- Communication Cost
- Format
- Security
- Memory
- Instructional Design
What are OUM Efforts?

- Flexibility in accessing content: Downloadable files from OUM i-Radio
- Direct connect to i-Radio via mobile technologies
- Ensure communication costs are affordable
- Ensure content is well designed to suit mobile architecture
- Ensure content is well integrated into the total learning process
Mobile technologies are giving a different face-lift to the learning process.

There exist a synergy between the new-age-learners and mobile technology.

Mobile Technologies transgress poor and rich economies.