LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

A learning management system (LMS) is a software application for the administration, documentation, tracking, reporting, and delivery of educational courses, training programs, or learning and development programs. The learning management system concept emerged directly from e-Learning.

FEATURES OF LMS

1.   Managing courses, users and roles

The LMS may be used to create professional structured course content. The teacher can add, text, images, tables, links and text formatting, interactive tests, slideshows etc. Moreover, you can create different types of users, such as teachers, students, parents, visitors and editors (hierarchies). It helps control which content a student can access, track studying progress and engage student with contact tools. Teachers can manage courses and modules, enroll students or set up self-enrollment, see reports on students and import students to their online classes.

The following resources can be store and share on the LMS

Files: store virtually any digital documents, images, audio/video, text files

Webpage: ("make our own" page, WYSWIG or with HTML, embed,, insert images, connect

Links: cut access time with direct one-click link to any website

Folders: build up folders, name, organize

Database: build a searchable repository of files, web links, images, geo tags…

Portfolio: create and maintain a portfolio of documents*

Labels: keep things clean and organised with labels

2.   Communications

A steady stream of communication is essential for success in higher education and LMS opens up this channel. Various communication avenues available in LMS include forums, messaging, chat, comments and blog posts for students and teachers to be able to communicate from beyond the

classroom, allowing learning to go beyond the school day. The great thing about LMS is that you can access it at any time of the day or night, so you can logon when you have time to catch up on communications.

Available tools for communication

a) **Chat rooms:** have instant communication, on-the-spot problem solving
b) **Forums:** run class discussion/ debate, peer assess, interview, FAQ, role play, Q&A sessions, notice board…
c) **Messaging:** send/receive private instant message, email notification
d) **Dialogue:** have in-depth private one-to-one conversation, great for confidential matters

3. Collaboration

LMS enables and encourages collaboration and teamwork. The communication features in LMS listed above (dialogue, forums, messaging) allow students to work together, share ideas and ask/ answer questions if needed.

Additional tools for collaboration

a) **Blog:** have students publish, reflect, clarify, keep notes, group work, run quick response items, use key tags
b) **Wiki:** brainstorm, design group-o-pedia, track research, 'jigsaw' contribute, build collective argument, cluster-maps, histories of achievement
c) **Glossary:** have students build own entries, cross-reference, paraphrase, link, explain, define, refine
d) **Database:** jointly create, store and search class collections, revision sheets, photo galleries, lists of useful websites, book reviews
e) **Forum:** provoke/ moderate a debate, guide discussion, view, rate and reflect on peer contribution

4. Evaluation

LMS offers many different style of assessment, from quizzes to assignment. Each offer different style of assessment for different users. Teachers may wish to encourage learners to self-assess, or

may prefer more traditional quiz type assessments as part of formative assessment. Also assignment submissions are not only limited to school hours— assignments can be submitted at any designated time, including weekends, early mornings and evenings.

Available tools for evaluation

a) **Quiz:** check & build understanding with multiple choice, true/false, cloze, essay, drag'n'drop, short answer Q
b) **Assignment:** write and submit online, offline, offer feedback, grade, resubmit, upload one or more files portfolio style

ADVANTAGES OF LMS

There are six major advantages of LMS: interoperability, accessibility, reusability, durability, maintenance ability and adaptability, which in themselves constitute the concept of LMS.

Other advantages include:

a) An LMS supports content in various formats: text, video, audio, etc.
b) One can access materials anytime, from everywhere, teachers can modify the content, and students can see the updated material.
c) The evaluation of students is easier and fair, based on student attendance and online quizzes.
d) Students and teachers can re-use the material every time they need.
e) Students can learn collaboratively by setting up a LMS software

CHALLENGES

a) Implementing LMS requires a well-built technology infrastructure.
b) Teachers have to be willing to adapt their curricula from face to face lectures to online lectures.
c) Availability of internet connectivity for teachers and students.