

### Greetings Dear readers of TOJDE,

I am pleased to inform you that Volume 6, Number: 4 are appearing on your screen now as which is addressed <http://tojde.anadolu.edu.tr>. Very much thanks to all of you once more that we met 19th time, since January 2000. As we announced in Volume: 6 Number: 3-4 issue, April 2006 issue of TOJDE would published on special issue is to indicate foresight, innovation, and strategy for the future direction of e-learning, more than web-oriented teaching and multipoint videoconferencing, for collaborative, distributed, experiential learning and creation of new knowledge, with youngsters around the world, which hence promote mutual understanding for global peace.

Emphasis will be on knowledgeable and inspiring papers (but not limited) on the use of GRID networking technology with distributed computer simulation for experiential (hands-on) learning through broadband Internet, across national, continental and oceanic boundaries. Subjects are in any fields of e-learning and e-healthcare/telemedicine, in research, case studies, project descriptions, implementation, and reports from the field or book review.

I would like to announce for all you, that Volume: 7 Number: 2 will publish as the 4th Special Theme Issue of TOJDE in April 2006. This issue will be prepare by Guest Editor Takeshi UTSUMI, Ph.D., P. E. (Founder and V. P. for Technology and Coordination of Global University System (GUS), USA) and Guest Co-Editor Associate Professor Piet KOMMERS (from University of Twente, The Netherlands).

In this issue we published 13 articles, three reviews, some news and announcements for our readers.

The first article is coming from USA. Author is one of our recent authors; his name is Dr. Scott L. WALKER. This time he wrote on "Modifying Formative Evaluation Techniques For Distance Education Class Evaluation" subject. He indicates in his article that "Post-secondary classes are usually followed by mandatory summative evaluations, yet changes in teaching and course structure cannot be made with summative evaluations. Formative evaluations in online education can result in candid responses from students if a third-party facilitator is involved in the process"

Second article is from Mustafa Koc. He is Turkish but he is studying in USA as doctorate candidate. His subject is dealing with "Individual Learner Differences in Web-based Learning Environments: From Cognitive, Affective and Social-cultural Perspectives". He points out in his article that "...individual differences in web-based learning, also known as online instruction, online training or distance education were examined and implications for designing distance education" for discussing in the field. It is really good article for contemporary discussion for me and for our readers.

And than third article is about "Media in Distance Learning: The Nigerian National Teachers Institute Distance Education Programme" which is written by Mudasiru Olalere YUSUF (Ph.D) and Ayotunde Atanda FALADE from Department of Curriculum Studies and Educational Technology, Faculty of Education University of Ilorin, of Nigeria. They mentioned in their article that "...investigated the use of media by distance learners enrolled in the NTI distance education programme. Two hundred and fifty five distance learners drawn from Oyo State,

**Nigeria, completed a questionnaire to determine the use of media, and factors militating against their effective use by distance learners". The results are very interesting.**

**The fourth article is dealt with "Analyzing E-mail communication of prospective learners", by Dr. Vibha and Anurag, from India. In this article; Vibha and Anurag mentioned their thoughts that computer has replaced all means of communication significantly. E-mail is the most popular means of communication through computers. It has vanished the boundaries between the cities, countries and continents. So, their study tries to analyze the e-mail responses of the people who either by surfing IGNOU's website or from other sources came to know about the various programs of studies offered by the School of Education.**

**The fifth article came from Turkey this time, Marmara University. He indicates in his article that "A Conceptual Framework for the Electronic Performance Support Systems within IBM Lotus Notes 6 (LN6) Example". Dr. Servet points out in his article that the concept of Electronic Performance Support Systems (EPSS) is containing multimedia or computer based instruction components that improves human performance by providing process simplification, performance information and decision support system. A conceptual framework of EPSS is constructed under five interrelated and interdependent domains for educational implications. The domains of the framework are online collaboration, cost-effectiveness, motivation, service management, and performance empowering. IBM Lotus Notes 6 (LN6) is used as an example application tool to illustrate the power of this framework. The framework describes a set of relevant events based upon deductive analyses for improving our understanding of the EPSS and its implications on education and training. The article is also pointed out that there are some similarities between the EPSS' and the LN6's specific features within this conceptual framework. It can provide some guidelines and benefits to researchers, educators, and designers as well.**

**Now lets talks about the sixth article which is written by Assoc. Prof Aytekin Isman and Fahme DABAJ, from Faculty of Education EMU-NCTR. Their subject was about "Diffusion of Distance Education in North Cyprus" In this papers Rogers' diffusion theory (1995) was used to analyze the acceptance and implementation of distance education in institutions of higher learning in north Cyprus. The four main elements of the diffusion paradigm -- the innovation, communication channels, time, and a social system -- were used to analyze the North Cyprus distance education project. The results of this research indicate that the Rogers' four elements were useful in analyzing the innovation of distance education in North Cyprus.**

**Dr. Yuliang LIU was one of older authors of TOJDE. The article which is entitled "Impact of Online Instruction on Teachers' Learning and Attitudes toward Technology Integration", Dr. Yuliang LIU, implies that quasi-experimental study was designed to explore the potential impact of online instruction in a graduate course affects K-12 teachers' attitudes towards technology integration in schools and learning performance in the United States. This study used a nonequivalent control group design. Nineteen participants in both the experimental group (online section) and control group (traditional section) were pretested and posttested with the Stages of Concerns (SoC) Questionnaire in the fall semester of 2003. Due to the unbalanced participants in the experimental and control groups, the nonparametric statistic procedure was used to examine the differences between two groups. The Mann-Whitney U test indicated a significant difference only existed in stage 2-personal stage in both raw score and percentile score between the online and traditional sections. That is, online instruction significantly promoted online learner's concern only in stage 2-personal stage. No significant differences were found in other six stages of SoC questionnaire between the two groups. In addition, no significant differences were found in students' final course grades between two groups. Implications for K-12 teacher education were proposed.**

The eight article is from Anadolu University which is written by Dr. Cemil Ulukan, on the subject that "Transformation of University Organizations: Leadership and Managerial Implications". He is telling on technology and globalizations are forcing higher education institutions to transform themselves. In this paper, he aims to contribute to a better understanding the leadership and managerial implications of recent developments for higher education. Reviewing unique characteristics and the fundamental changes shaping higher education, the paper examines the need for organizational transformation and the major managerial implications.

When we click the ninth paper you will see the article which is written by Prof. Dele BRAIMOH, National University of Lesotho, SOUTH AFRICA and Dr. Rebecca LEKOKO, University of Botswana, South Africa. My dear authors indicate in their paper aim is to stimulate dialogue on the significance, scope of coverage and the processes of formulating a policy framework for maintaining academic excellence as opposed to mediocrity. We are, however, mindful of the fact that practices are diverse in the region, but regardless of this diversity, a regional policy framework is possible to regulate the planning, development and implementation of quality distance education Programmes across all levels of education, with particular focus on higher institutions of learning.

The tenth article was sent to TOJDE by Dr. I. Ahmed M. J. SADIIG is from Malaysia, International Islamic University Gombak. Dr. I. Ahmed M. J. SADIIG emphasizes in his article that the traditional learning paradigm involving face-to-face interaction with students is shifting to highly data-intensive electronic learning with the advances in Information and Communication Technology. An important component of the e-learning process is the delivery of the learning contents to their intended audience over a network. A distributed learning system is dependent on the network for the efficient delivery of its contents to the user.

Next article is again from Malaysia, which written by group of Hanafi ATAN, Zuraidah A. RAHMAN, Omar MAJID, Noraida A. GHANI and Rozhan M IDRUS. In their article, they discuss on "The Support System in Distance Education: Factors Affecting Achievements Among Women Learners". It is very important subject for TOJDE's publishing philosophy. They indicate in their paper that "reports on the study undertaken to elucidate the dimensions of the support system provided by the School of Distance Education (SDE), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) to its women learners that would have significant impact on their achievements. The factorial analysis conducted revealed that the role of the faculty is the main contributing factor affecting these achievements, followed by the provision of the intensive course, the electronic portal, video conferencing and to a much lesser extent, the existence of the regional centers. The implications of this study are discussed with the view of improving the support system provided by the institution and the need to put into action the necessary strategies to further improve the achievement of the women learners".

The twelfth article is given a place from Akdeniz University, Antalya, Turkey. Authors are discuses in their article for "students' perceptions and attitudes towards distance education based on their gender, school types attended, age and access to educational technology such as computer and internet. This paper also describes the specific program used by the faculty of Law at Akdeniz University, Turkey".

And, the last article which is thirteenth one about is "Communication Barriers: A Study of Eastern Mediterranean University Students' and Teachers' of Online Program and Courses" from Nor then Cyprus and Turkey. The authors are Dr. Isman and Res. Ass. Fahriye. They points out for the subject that "Therefore; multiple qualitative and quantitative research approaches under mixed approach are used to be aware of communication barriers in online

context and make participants to revamp the system by eliminating the weaknesses of the existing system and adapting to new trends that teachers and students have experienced”.

Two book reviews were on “Case Studies in Knowledge Management”, edited by Murray Jennex Hersley, published by Idea Group, in April 2005 and reviewed by Dr. Adnan BOYACI, Anadolu University, Eskişehir-TURKEY” and other one is “Advances in Electronic Marketing”, edited by Irvine Clarke III and Theresa Flaherty, 2005, published again by Idea Group in 2005 and reviewed by Dr. Ayhan YILMAZ, Anadolu University, Eskişehir-TURKEY.

Conferece review covers an evaluation of “The Fifth International Educational Technology Symposium”, which was held in Sakarya University, between the dates 21–23 September 2005 and reviewed by Mubin KIYICI, Sakarya University, TURKEY, for TOJDE readers.

In the other sections are again in the same format as usual as TOJDE’s presenting stile. News and some announcements are placed in this issue too.

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Happy readings

Hope to stay in touch and lets meet in next Issue, in January 2006.

Cordially,  
October 2005

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