

EXPLORING THE DISTINCTIVE FEATURES OF LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN ENHANCING ACADEMIC WRITING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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Abstract

This article offers a comprehensive examination of Learning Management Systems, specifically Canvas, that supports university students, teachers, and researchers in coordinating learning and teaching activities. Proposing the implementation of this type of LMS in Uzbekistan would be beneficial, as recommended. This article provides a comprehensive analysis of the Learning Management System (LMS) and highlights the significance of Canvas in improving students' academic writing abilities. Uzbekistan's universities should consider implementing Canvas to better support students, professors, and researchers.

Keywords: LMS (Learning Management Systems), Canvas, academic writing, research competence, online learning, assessment, discussion board.

Introduction

While working as a visiting scholar at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire in the United States of America, the concepts presented in this article were developed. As a visiting scholar and FEP finalist, my aim was to acquire valuable insights through practical experiences in the United States. Throughout the academic year of 2024, I accumulated a range of experiences and insights that led to the creation of this paper, emphasizing the importance of the LMS, specifically Canvas, in universities in Uzbekistan.

Learning Management Systems are becoming a key method for structuring online learning and teaching activities. They provide educators with resources to generate, host, and oversee a variety of products for learners. The wide range of contemporary Learning Management Systems is vast and requires thorough study to make an informed decision. The article analyzes the efficiency and user-friendliness of the Canvas for both instructors and students.

Nowadays, educational institutions around the world are increasingly utilizing online platforms. In the past, traditional on-site learning was the norm, but in recent years, there has been a significant shift towards more flexible teaching and learning methods. Researchers have noted the transition from face-to-face to online education [1, 5]. The exclusive reliance on physical classrooms for knowledge sharing and lectures is no longer the only choice [2, 10]. As a result, educational institutions globally are focusing on delivering top-notch services in the digital realm.

According to PR Newswire, Canvas facilitates seamless integration of the material, tools, and services desired by instructors and students using accessible cloud-based technology. Canvas is the most user-friendly, configurable, versatile, and dependable learning platform, leading to quicker and more extensive adoption compared to other LMS options. Ultimately, investing in 21st-century educational

technology simplifies the process of teaching and learning [3, 2].

Instructure, Inc. is a prominent software-as-a-service (SaaS) technology business that develops software designed to enhance users' intelligence. Instructure developed Canvas, Gauge, Arc, and Bridge with the goal of enhancing people's potential via technology. These tools allow businesses to design, deliver, and oversee interactive in-person and online learning events effortlessly. Instructure has facilitated connections between millions of teachers and learners at over 3,000 educational institutions and organizations globally [3, 1].

Educators must choose the suitable online platform or Learning Management Systems (LMS) to provide online lectures, lessons, and courses, and to engage with students and trainees. Currently, developers provide a diverse selection of Learning Management Systems (LMSs). UNESCO has recommended a selection of over 10 Learning Management Systems (LMSs) and up to 11 MOOC platforms [4, 1].

D. Turnbull et al. describe a Learning Management System as an online learning system used for creating, organizing, and displaying course contents [5, 10]. L. Reid views LMS as a course management platform that allows individuals to get education regardless of their physical location [1, 7]. An LMS generally streamlines and enhances the teaching and learning process. Educators have the ability to create versatile, engaging, and significant instructional activities and resources. Students may engage and cooperate with course participants from desktops or mobile devices.

Modern Learning Management Systems (LMSs) differ in their kinds and features, with some using cloud computing and not necessitating extensive programming expertise, while others are on-premises software that need particular programming abilities and database array proficiency [6, 260].

The University of Wisconsin Eau Claire utilizes the Canvas platform for many classroom operations. Teachers use it well, particularly in enhancing pupils' academic writing skills. The platform offers a diverse range of options to both educators and students. Teachers often use discussion boards for generating ideas and giving homework, while students are often required to do research before providing responses. Students enhance their academic writing abilities and prepare to become proficient in research in the future.

Another crucial aspect of an LMS is overseeing learners' advancement and monitoring. It is achievable by using a proficient assignment system [7, 65]. Teachers need opportunities to create activities that align with their professional requirements. Common online assignments include of discussion boards, exams, quizzes, case-based tasks, wikis, portfolio development, and more [8, 17]. Canvas allows users to generate many forms of quizzes, exams, and debates.

Canvas developers provide the flexibility to build both scored and non-graded projects for individual students as well as groups of students. They respond in many formats, such as typing text, uploading movies, audios, files, or photographs as needed. Students may include online links to provide support for their work or offer supplementary information. The teacher is authorized to provide feedback on the work to each student in the form of text, a file, or media. When a teacher posts a remark, a student receives an email notification.

Canvas provides a variety of conversation features including threaded responses, mandatory posting before viewing replies, podcast feed integration, graded

discussions, liking options, and adding tasks to student to-do lists. Participants can choose to share their responses through video and audio formats, which boosts online interaction and productivity. Moreover, Canvas is the sole platform that enables the submission of Google Apps assignments.

Canvas LMS developed discussion forums, partnerships, and conferences without grades. The collaboration entails utilizing web-based technologies like Google Docs for working together and sharing ideas. Canvas provides a unique peer-reviewed forum feature where students give feedback on each other's comments without giving grades. The LMS features a People tab where participants can view all individuals enrolled in the course, along with their profiles containing both professional and personal information [9, 185].

There is a growing need for educators to utilize many resources, and Canvas is dedicated to making it easier to connect with most of them. You may use programs like as Jam board, Flip Grid, Turnitin, Ed puzzle, and others. To improve the course material, one method is to integrate courses, presentations, websites, and other resources from Canvas Commons, which is a store of learning objects [9, 189].

Canvas provides two unique tools: Syllabus and Modules. This first choice is created to smoothly incorporate with different assignments, grades, and calendars. Teachers may simply connect to crucial components like Modules using the interactive features. Students are promptly provided with their timetables and deadlines at the beginning of the course, allowing them to organize their study more effectively. The curriculum is available on the Course Navigation Bar for the whole length of the course [9, 187].

Online educational resources are crucial for enhancing research skills and fostering research capabilities in instructors, professors, and university students, as shown by the study [10, 219].

This article explores the rationale for selecting the LMS Canvas in Uzbekistan, outlining its functionality and user-friendly nature. This platform's major goal is to provide a gradual method for enhancing students' academic writing abilities. Canvas, an LMS used at institutions in Uzbekistan, aims to improve the lack of research quality and promote research across many disciplines. Its goal is to provide students and teachers with essential skills and information.

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