

Contribution of open course materials to education in the distance education process: Ankara University Open Course Wares Health Departments

Nurgül Kılıç*

Abstract

The development of the Internet and the rapid progress in technological communication have made information tools available in new fields with virtuality and digital factors. The use of these resources supports processes that attempt to explain how an individual understands and learns, based on learning theories of the digital age.

Open education surrounds resources, instruments and practices that form a structure of open sharing to enhance access to education and its strength worldwide. In fact, sharing is the most fundamental feature of education; sharing information, insights and knowledge with others, only after which new knowledge, skills, ideas and awareness can be built. Open education seeks to scope educational occasion by taking advantage of the authority of the Internet, allowing speedy and essentially free circulation, and enabling people round the world to access information, connect and collaborate.

Open Course Ware (OCW) has been providing online open access to information and documents, one of the main goals of the Internet, since its inception. OCW aims to provide access to information produced by universities. Meanwhile, it is essential to provide solutions that will increase the accessibility and usability of OCW. (Rodriguez et al, 2017). Education is a fundamental tool for public and society to solve the difficulties of the present and capture the opportunities of the future. However, the current supply of education is restricted by capabilities of educational institutions talent, as a result, this resource is available to the few, not the many.

(OCW) offers courses created by professors at universities and published free of charge on the Internet. The application of OCW first emerged in the late 1990s, and after it gained great attention in Europe and then the United States, it became a tool to provide educational content worldwide.¹

* Ankara University Library and Documentation Department; Ankara-Turkey; nkilic@health.ankara.edu.tr

¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OpenCourseWare>

Open Course Materials allow students to access the resources related to the course, and to compare, benefit and improve the contents of the courses with those of similar courses. In addition, open course materials that can be used by anyone who aims to improve themselves are important resources that support lifelong learning.²

Nowadays, it is noticed that there is an improve in efforts to remove the borders in access to information. The open access phenomenon should not be limited to scientific research only, different aspects of the event such as open course materials and open source software should also be taken into account (Al & Madran, 2013).

The usability metric for the OCW should not only provide a specific global ranking, but also highlight the strengths and weaknesses associated with the ideal site design (Agarwal & Venkatesh, 2002). In this way, it is necessary to prevent users from getting lost in a complex website while offering free content. The content should be served through a user-friendly interface that will appeal to all worldwide users.

Ankara University has been providing OCW for 4 years. The lecture notes to be processed every week for almost all courses in all departments are open to access on the Open course materials web page. Open Course Materials are based on the principle of transferring teaching resources over the Internet.

Ankara University OCW supports the training in Turkey aiming to boost the rapid and comprehensive manner. All educators and students can freely benefit from Ankara OCW content, and support their academic activities with the information publicly available on the platform.³

Ankara University Open Course Materials does not promise course credits or any degree and does not help you communicate with faculty members. It only allows you to easily access the materials of the courses on the system. Issues related to the offers of Ankara University Open Course Materials are under the responsibility of the lecturer who teaches the course. Lecture notes in Ankara OCW are available for use and adaptation under Creative Commons licenses.

All educators, students and researchers can access the content on the Ankara OCW platform as a free and open educational resource. However, this content does not promise credits or any degree and will not help you communicate with faculty. While ACW enriches students' resources related to the course, it also enables faculty members to compare the contents of their courses with those of similar courses, benefit from them and improve them. Ankara OCW provides open access to materials used in many courses. There are currently 7381 open educational resources available.

² <http://ocw.ankara.edu.tr/>

³ <http://ocw.ankara.edu.tr/>

Faculty of Dental Medicine, Faculty of Pharmacy, Faculty of Nursing, Faculty of Health Science, Faculty of Medicine, and Vocational School of Health Services offer over 2248 courses within OCW.

The use of OCW is increasing each year. The increased usage statistics during the transition to distance education is an indication of the need for such a system throughout the country.

If you are a student looking for supplementary materials, trying to prepare a new lesson or wish to have more in a subject you are interested in, you may find Ankara University Open Course Materials useful.

Keywords: Open Course Ware, Open Course Materials, Open Data, Open Education, Digital Education

Bibliography

1. Agarwal, R., & Venkatesh, V. (2002). Assessing a Firm's Web Presence: A Heuristic Evaluation Procedure for the Measurement of Usability. *Information Systems Research*, 13(2), 168-186. Retrieved March 31, 2021, from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23011054>
2. Al, U., Madran, O. (2013). Açık Ders Malzemelerine Genel Bakış: Türkiye Bilimler Akademisi Örneği. *Bilgi Dünyası*, 14(1), 1-16. <https://doi.org/10.15612/BD.2013.132>
3. Rodriguez, G., Pérez, J., Cueva, S., & Tandazo, R.T. (2017). A framework for improving web accessibility and usability of Open Course Ware sites. *Comput. Educ.*, 109, 197-215. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compedu.2017.02.013>

MARMARA
ÜNİVERSİTESİ