

Chapter 5

Multi-Messaging and Multimodalities for Online Learning Contents and Digital Leave Behinds

ABSTRACT

“Online learning contents” for online learning tend towards complexity (and multi-messaging) and may instantiate in different modalities (a variety of analog and digital). “Digital leave behinds” are learning contents that are hosted on websites or repositories or other spaces and are used as part of a post-learning or post-event sequence to help learners refresh on their main ideas, make informed decisions, and advance their knowledge, skills, and abilities/attitudes (KSAs). These digital leave behinds may also be used as stand-alone learning contents usable by the general public, even if the users were not part of the original formal learning or event. These objects must be as comprehensive as possible and practical in application. This work describes the uses of visual instructional design for the creation of multi-messaged and multi-modal (1) learning contents and (2) digital leave behinds.

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INTRODUCTION

This chapter will explore the following questions:

- What are some effective ways to build online learning contents in multimodal ways, based on research into human perception, cognition, and learning with multimedia?
 - What sorts of data may inform these builds?
 - What sorts of visuals may support these builds?
- In terms of digital leave behinds to combat skills decay and forgetting among learners, what are ways to build these contents as references and as decision support tools? How can these be as comprehensive and stand-alone as possible (to broaden the population of potential users)?
 - What sorts of visuals may support these builds?
 - What visuals can support these learning objectives and these learning outcomes?

In the design of online learning, “online learning contents/resources” are very commonly created. These include the following: digital learning objects, slideshows, videos, games, simulations, and other artifacts. They also include sets of case studies, videos, imagery, articles, simulations, and other information-based resources. “Digital leave behinds” are a special type of online learning contents, which are residua or byproducts from formal, nonformal, and informal learning sequences (like short- and long- courses, learning experiences) and events, among others. These leave behinds are for people to refresh their memory (as various aide de memoire), review concepts and practices and attitudes from prior learning, assist in decision-making, assist in work-based processes, and other related follow-on work. These may be used in a follow-on additive way to extended learning, or in a stand-alone way as new learning. In most cases, these leave behinds can be separated from the hosting platform and downloaded on its own and even printable in hard copy format in many cases (like posters, like pages for a binder, like electronic books and manuals, and others). Some digital leave behinds may be extended “assignments,” such as ideas for follow-on work, partial notes for completion, and other ways to “operationalize” the learning from the prior learning sequence or event. (Figure 2) These leave behinds may be used to continue the social network ties from the prior experiences

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