

**DEVELOPMENT OF E-MODULE TO ENHANCE ONLINE LEARNING AMONGST UITM -
DISTANCE LEARNERS**



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5.2 Enhanced Executive Summary

UiTM Centre of Online Education has been providing its students with the printed Self Instructional Materials (SIM) by popular demand as students find it convenient to have printed materials to refer to. Nonetheless, being virtual learners, having e-module is most fitting to their mode of learning because online engagements can encourage students to frequent virtual classroom, thus, increasing online participation. The study seeks ways on the possibilities to adapt the printed SIMs in the development of eSIM. It has the following objectives:

1. To analyse the present Self Instructional Materials
2. To develop 3 electronic modules which support the online learning

The analysis of printed SIM was carried on two broad area of content and presentation which was further devided into smaller factors namely updateability, relevance, concreteness, connectedness, interactivity, stimulating, navigation, motivation and attention. Data for the analysis was collected through a survey on 200 students and interview with 5 subject matter experts and experienced instructional designers. This analysis serve two purposes; an evaluation of the exixting SIM and a need analysis for the development of eSIM. Findings show that more than 70% of the respondents are satisfied with the presentation of the information and the content in the printed SIM. However, they prefer to have more graphical information and would like to have additional examples and exercises. Thus, the new e-SIMs are designed with enhanced presentation, more exercises with feedbacks and video of skill demonstration. While the print based materials can still contribute to achieving the learning outcomes, the web based learning can support learning in terms of interactivity, hyperlinks, motivation and attention.

5.3 Introduction

Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) introduced the distance learning programme (PJJ) way back in 1973. However in 1998 UiTM started introducing the electronic distance learning (e-PJJ). With the introduction of the electronic component the face to face meeting was reduced and replaced by the computer as the learning management system (LMS). The self instructional materials (SIM) as one of the medium to support learning is still being used as the learners prefer to have printed materials to refer to. The LMS is mainly use as a medium for communication between the lecturers and students and between students and students.

The e-learning model at UiTM is a blend between the traditional face to face mode with a web supported learning through its learning management system (LMS) named as i-class . i-class is the platform for interaction and discussion with the instructors , peers and ideally complementing the normal face to face lectures with online support. The students are also provided with self-instructional- materials (SIM) to enable them to study on their own. Presently, the students meet the lecturers five times a semester and they depend a lot on these meetings and the SIMs for their learning. In view of this situation the institution feels that the students should shift more towards online learning, but in order to attract them towards online learning the materials provided in the i-class have to be upgraded and enhanced. As a consequence, the institution has decided that all materials in i-class have to be developed and enhanced in order to achieve the learning outcomes. In developing the electronic content criteria, the quality and learner usability have to be taken into consideration as we do not want to develop materials which the learners find of no use or not user friendly to them.

Evethough the online learners have only 5 face to face lessons per semester, they still need to complete the same amount of assignment and have to sit for the same set of tests and exams as the traditional fulltime students who have fixed classes scheduled weekly. Therefore, a constant concern is that despite the reduced direct contact hours with the lecturers, have they been provided with enough knowledge to