

Incorporating Screencasts in Teaching and Learning of Database Applications in an Undergraduate Course at a Turkish University

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Abstract

This study aims to report on the experiences of a faculty member and an undergraduate class (N=52) who incorporated screencasts of database applications into their teaching and learning activities in a computer course at a Turkish university. Qualitative data were obtained through participant observations in the course and in an online group in Facebook, document analysis, and written surveys (N=43). An inductive content analysis method was conducted to analyse the data. Most of the beginner students reflected that screencasts were useful mediums to rerun in order to watch the creation of the database applications. Moreover, the students said that screencasts contributed to their knowledge and skills in database applications. Although some students complained about insufficiency of screencasts in complex database applications, quality of audio and duration of the screencasts many students considered the audio-visual features and reusability of the screencasts outside the course as important advantages. The findings of this study suggest that screencasts can be considered as useful supplementary mediums to facilitate beginner students' learning in database applications. Moreover, teacher guidance and active involvements of the students are needed as well in learning and mastering the skills in the sophisticated database applications.

Keywords: *Screencasts, social networking, database applications, undergraduate students*