

# ADVANCEMENT IN E-LEARNING

AKRAM M. ZEKI  
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# VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

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## ABSTRACT

The concept of virtual learning environment (VLE) means more than website, it has several features that can enhance the education process, it is not necessary to be represented in distance learning, this concept is extended to enrich the education activities even in the classroom. The current research aims to explore the definitions of the VLEs in literature, furthermore, to explain the main features that may introduce effective VLEs. The tools of VLEs vary when it comes to knowledge representation but the must be rich in pedagogical approaches.

**Keywords:** Virtual Learning Environment, E-Learning, Knowledge Representation, Pedagogy Approaches

## INTRODUCTION

Like so many other sectors, the education sector is experiencing rapid internationalization (Bennell & Pearce, 2003). Virtual learning, e-learning, the information super highway, no matter the choice of terminology, information technology has advanced elemental changes in how teaching and learning take place. The globalization of education goes hand in hand with an increase in distance learning programs, supported by a rising utilization of Internet-based electronic learning (e-learning) systems. E-learning systems help educational programs cross borders of time and space.

Although historically, many countries have embraced distance learning tools to enhance students' educational opportunities. New choices and opportunities for students, parents, educators, and administrators have opened as technologies provide any time and any place modes of educating the masses (Fletcher, 2004). Furthermore, they enable improvements in communication efficiency, both between student and teacher, as well as among students (Martins & Kellermanns, 2004). According to Selim (2007), the idea of e-learning systems is one of the tools emerged from IT which is the most significant developments in the IT industry, presently it has been applied in teaching and learning in several universities that resulted in changes in education procedures in those institutions. The expansion of Web applications has formulated e-learning systems as a significant instructional medium in universities (Shih, 2008).