

Report writing - example of an introduction

In an article entitled, *Few honours for e-degree*, Joe Gelonesi (2002) presents many a cautionary tale for institutions embarking on e-learning. The purpose of this study was to investigate the issues raised in this article on Beacon University's increasing use of online technology in the delivery of its courses. The information gathered was to assist in continuous improvement and decision-making with regard to modes of course delivery.

Based on Federal Government and industry reports (DEET 1999; McInnis 2001; Smith 2001) it was assumed that competition from private educational organisations will increase and that student engagement with universities is changing. This will necessitate universities rethinking what they offer and the way they offer it. The experiences of academics currently teaching in three Schools were considered in terms of changing student needs and acceptance of the new technologies by students and academics. Information was gathered by way of interviews with the selected academics. This was supplemented by a review of current literature on e-learning. Although expressions of interest were sought from students for focus group discussions, none were received and interviews were therefore limited to academic staff. While the lack of a student voice on such an important issue is a limiting factor, much of the literature makes clear the issues for students in the current educational-economic climate.

In this report, the issues raised in Gelonesi's article are identified and set amongst the current literature relating to online learning. These findings are then contextualised at Beacon by considering the perceived student and staff needs as identified through structured interviews.

The following page explains the structure of this introduction.

<p>In an article entitled, <i>Few honours for e-degree</i>, Joe Gelonesi (2002) presents many a cautionary tale for institutions embarking on e-learning. The purpose of this study was to investigate the issues raised in this article on Beacon University's increasing use of online technology in the delivery of its courses. The information gathered was to assist in continuous improvement and decision-making with regard to modes of course delivery.</p>	<p>The reasons for undertaking the study are outlined</p>
<p>Based on Federal Government and industry reports (DEET 1999; McInnis 2001; Smith 2001) it was assumed that competition from private educational organisations will increase and that student engagement with universities is changing. This will necessitate universities rethinking what they offer and the way they offer it.</p>	<p>Any assumptions made in the study are noted</p>
<p>The experiences of academics currently teaching in three Schools were considered in terms of changing student needs and acceptance of the new technologies by students and academics.</p>	<p>The scope or extent of coverage is clarified</p>
<p>Information was gathered by way of interviews with the selected academics. This was supplemented by a review of current literature on e-learning.</p>	<p>Methodology (how the research was conducted) is outlined</p>
<p>Although expressions of interest were sought from students for focus group discussions, none were received and interviews were therefore limited to academic staff. While the lack of a student voice on such an important issue is a limiting factor, much of the literature makes clear the issues for students in the current educational-economic climate.</p>	<p>Limitations of the study are explained</p>
<p>In this report, the issues raised in Gelonesi's article are identified and set amongst the current literature relating to online learning. These findings are then contextualised at Beacon by considering the perceived student and staff needs as identified through structured interviews.</p>	<p>Plan of the report is specified</p>