**Online Community**

Juan Rodriguez

New Jersey City University

EDTC 816: Advanced Building Online Communities

Dr. Laura Zieger

February 6, 2022

**Online Community**

An online community or an internet community refers to individuals who share similar interests and use web resources to communicate and carry out their activities. For this reason, online communities operate under a set of guidelines and have differentiated needs like management, efficiency, interoperability, and communication. Moreover, online communities are impacted by unprecedented changes such as those brought by COVID. Therefore, it is critical to research the potential implications of such shifts on these communities. On that account, the dissertation proposal will focus on factors affecting the adoption of video conferencing across Universities in the US. Consequently, the following webliography identifies the online communities that relate to this topic, including teachers, students, administrators, and web developers on various platforms.

**Higher Education Teaching and Learning Association (http://members.hetl.org/)**

The Higher Education Teaching and Learning Association is a membership-based online community that serves individuals in higher education institutions in the US through professional development, leadership, advocacy, and peer-to-peer learning resources. The organization has 90,749 members on Linkedin and a global online community whose goal is to transform higher learning and teaching by advancing multidisciplinary collaboration and global networking, capacity building, higher education development, innovation, advanced research, democracy, human rights, and sustainable educational development. However, the organization is successful because of its ability to connect professionals and educational experts globally and offer industry-specific and innovative solutions to aid the adoption of technological innovations to promote higher learning.

**Teacher Tube (https://www.teachertube.com/)**

Teacher-Tube is an online community for educators and individuals seeking to share instructional and educational videos. The organization was launched in 2007 to provide reliable educational resources to educators and students in the US. By 2010, the community had more than one million members and thousands of instructional videos on its platform. As a result, it is a reliable resource for learners and educators at all levels. However, its online community is a significant part of its evolution because of its active engagement. Therefore, video conferencing is a critical component of this community because it facilitates several activities on the platform, like sharing ideas and communication.

**E-Learning 2.0 (https://www.linkedin.com/groups/138953/)**

E-Learning 2.0 is a thriving online community on Linkedin with about 85,985 active members. The group is dedicated to serving its online community with the most recent news about e-learning technologies, instructional designs, and innovative educational techniques. Therefore, the group is recommended for trainers, educators, and instructional developers. The vision of the online community is to connect, educate, and build better relationships through networking and sharing ideas. As a result, it allows its members to connect with people offering mutual benefits, including corporate educators, trainers, and academic professionals. Consequently, any concept related to e-learning can be discussed in this group because it has implications for the community.

**TeachAde (https://www.teachade.com/)**

TeachAde is an online educational platform bringing together thousands of teachers and students into an online community where members can create, share, and find lesson plans, educational audio, videos, and resources on several topics. Its website is intuitive and free to sign up. Therefore, its convenience has enabled it to attract thousands of followers on its site on social media channels and group members. After signing in, all you need to do is find colleagues, groups, or resources that align with your needs. Therefore, its online community has successfully supported teachers and students with a wealth of resources for more than 16 years.

**Scholastic Teachers (http://www.Scholastic.com/teachers)**

Scholastic Teachers is another online educational platform that offers unmatched educational resources to all individuals accessing the site. Although the organization was conceived as a publisher and children's book provider, it has achieved several milestones, accumulating a massive audience and followers. Apart from offering reliable educational materials on its site, the organization is in charge of the Scholastic Teachers online community with numerous followers on social media platforms, reaching about 551,876 followers on Facebook. Currently, the online community supports teachers and students with new-age learning solutions, digital educational resources, course materials, and guidelines to maximize learning development. The organization is successful because of its ability to connect thousands of individuals across various web platforms and provide unique digital resources.

**K12 Education Technology & eLearning (https://www.linkedin.com/groups/ 3887236/)**

The K12 Education Technology and eLearning Professionals is a division of the Education Technology and eLearning Professionals, specialized in bringing together educational technology professionals through networking, information sharing via its online community, career support, and engaging with individuals in the eLearning sector to discuss innovation and solutions to potential setbacks. The online community is comprised of 2,578 members who focus on ideas that enhance the value of K12 Educational Technology practitioners globally. Multimedia systems and web developers play a critical role in providing technical solutions to support e-Learning. Therefore, research about the factors that inhibit the adoption of these systems can help them make changes and improve. One of the reasons why the online community does not have as many followers is their target members, comprised of a small fraction of tech developers and application software gurus.

**Teaching Online (https://web.facebook.com/groups/facilitatingonlinelearning)**

Teaching online is a public online community on Facebook with 9,800 members. The online community promotes content that enables educators to share information about using online educational technology and how to develop a growth mindset. The community also shares ideas on creating online courses that match learners' needs and enhance instruction. Therefore, it is a reliable reference point for educators seeking to discuss issues related to e-learning. Furthermore, the online community shares educational courses that students and teachers can conveniently access on the page. As a result, it provides unparalleled tips on making the best out of online learning opportunities and mitigating challenges.

**ISTE (https://www.iste.org/)**

The International Society-for-Technology in Education is a non-profit corporation dedicated to serving educators with information on using technology. The organization was established in 1979 and is known for hosting several innovation-related events in educational institutions. Over the years, the organization has pioneered the advancement of educators and students by offering learning resources, online courses, webinars, consultation services, publications, books, and journals to teachers and students through their online community. Moreover, it has members scattered globally. Its membership is extended to other organizations, application technology developers, and experts in high-quality EdTech, allowing them to collaborate on projects and design cutting-edge educational learning solutions.

**Connexions (https://cnx.org/)**

Connexions is an open platform online educational system developed by Rice University in 1999 to enable students to access resources and contribute to their learning. Subsequently, the platform has grown to host a global audience of educators and students. As a result, its members have increased its value by constantly posting learning materials over the years. The online community allows students and teachers to share course modules, learning materials, books, academic assignments, and publications on various topics. Moreover, the online community is equipped to discuss and seek help from experts in case of challenges. Therefore, this online community resonates with challenges experienced in the adoption of video conferencing.

**Ted Talks (https://www.ted.com/)**

Ted Talks is a virtual online community that takes a different approach to discuss critical social issues and advance the human race. However, the community is popular among educators and students because most individuals address the need to change the education system and approaches to learning development. Furthermore, anyone can become a member of the Ted talks online community, participate in discussions, contribute. Moreover, the community offers thousands of educational videos, resources, guidance, and strategies to enhance learning in institutions. As a result, Ted Talks is a thriving online community due to its large user base and millions of community members.

Conclusion

An online community serves as common ground to foster mutual relationships and nurture members' thoughts, feedback, and engagement. Therefore online community member research is essential to investigate the implications of drastic change on particular communities and their reactions or opinions about these changes. Most educational online communities adopt solutions like video conferencing and multimedia to provide information and share learning resources. Therefore identifying the factors that diminish positive outcomes is crucial to enhance continuous development. Thus, the research is essential for online educational communities and all shareholders in the education sector in the US.

**References**

Connexions (https://cnx.org/)

E-Learning 2.0 (https://www.linkedin.com/groups/138953/)

Higher Education Teaching and Learning Association. Retrieved From: http://members.hetl.org/

ISTE. Retrieved From: https://www.iste.org/

K12 Education Technology & eLearning. Retrieved From: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/

3887236/

Scholastic Teachers. Retrieved From: http://www.Scholastic.com/teachers

TeachAde. Retrieved From: https://www.teachade.com/

Teaching Online. Retrieved From: https://web.facebook.com/groups/facilitatingonlinelearning

Teacher Tube. Retrieved From: https://www.teachertube.com/)

Ted Talks, Retrieved From: https://www.ted.com/)