

Teaching – and what is that?

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The growth of computer applications and the use of the internet brought about a radical shift to the delivery mode of distance education. Those comfortable with teaching in the print-based or 'correspondence' course offered by institutions have found that the internet-delivered online course does not resemble the previous environment at all. For those who have never taught a course delivered by distance, the completely online course also poses new challenges.

Much of the early debate about the use of computer applications to the learning environment swirled around replacing instructors with machines and automating learning. Today, that debate has changed to one of instructor's time or lack of it and should shift further to discuss how we want to teach in this environment and what we mean by the term 'teaching'.