

REFeree'S REVIEW

Program:	MITIM
Student:	Derrick Katunzi
Title of thesis:	Towards Adoption of E-learning Technologies at Lappeenranta University of technology: Understanding Teachers' Adoption of Blackboard Learning System

Justification of the topic choice. Accuracy in defining the aim and objectives of the thesis. Justification of the topic choice; accuracy in defining the aim and tasks of the thesis; originality of the topic and the extent to which it was covered; alignment of the thesis' topic, aim and objectives.	5			
Structure and logic of the text flow. Logic of research; full scope of the thesis; alignment of thesis' structural parts, i.e. theoretical and empirical parts.	5			
Quality of analytical approach and quality of offered solution to the research objectives. Adequacy of objectives coverage; ability to formulate and convey the research problem; ability to offer options for its solution; application of the latest trends in relevant research are for the set objectives.		4		
Quality of data gathering and description. Quality of selecting research tools and methods; data validity adequacy; adequacy of used data for chosen research tools and methods; completeness and relevance of the list of references.	5			
Scientific aspect of the thesis. Independent scientific thinking in solving the set problem/objectives; the extent to which the student contributed to selecting and justifying the research model (conceptual and/or quantitative), developing methodology/approach to set objectives.		4		
Practical/applied nature of research. Extent to which the theoretical background is related to the international or Russian managerial practice; development of applied recommendations; justification and interpretation of the empirical/applied results.	5			
Quality of thesis layout. Layout fulfils the requirements of the Regulations for master thesis preparation and defense, correct layout of tables, figures, references.	5			

Each item above is evaluated on the following scale, as applicable: 5 = excellent, 4 = good, 3 = satisfactory, 2 = poor.

Additional comments:

The reviewed work is dedicated to one of the most important issues of e-learning studies. To the advantages of the paper one can attribute:

- Topicality of the issue, clear argumentation of the subjects and objects choice, deep insight into the specifics of investigated area of e-learning implementation;
- Serious review of the literature;
- Well-done synergetic elaboration of the methodology and research tools with the relevant and well-judged reliance on the theoretical formulations from the literature on t-learning systems adoption;
- Consistent methods of independent research applied –surveying of the respondents.
- Detailed analysis of the obtained data with clear inferences and conclusions made. Interpretation of the results with the understanding of possible underlying reasons, critical approach to analysis of the obtained data;
- Overall clear structure of the paper revealing general research and managerial expertise of the author and his analytic capabilities.

The work has both empirical research focus and practical dimension. The topic of the thesis is interesting, important and very relevant at the moment and in the future both for LUT, GSOM and other universities. I want to note logic and structured character of the master thesis in whole. The work consists of 6 chapters and demonstrates good quality of analysis and task solution. The quality of the thesis execution is also very impressive. Language of the thesis is fluent.

The main drawback of this work is rather small group of respondents (10 people) but it does not detract from the merits of described research. Reliability and validity issues related to empirical study

also can be discussed more widely. But my overall opinion is very positive as the thesis is very impressive.

Master thesis of Katunzi Derrick meets the requirements of MITIM program, and deserves a «excellent» grade, thus the author can be given the desired degree.

Date 02.06.11

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T. Gavrilova', written in a cursive style.

Referee: (*academic title, name*) Tatiana Gavrilova
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