

Supporting Instructional Process with PowerPoint: Experience from Multimedia Technology Subject

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ABSTRACT Effective instructional support has a crucial impact on learning process especially on the students' cognitive effect. In this case PowerPoint is a unique teaching tool that has been widely used on and off the campus. The advancement in software development has made electronic presentation using PowerPoint as the norm in the university setting. As a university lecturer, mastering how to prepare effective PowerPoint presentation contents has become crucial. This paper will examine the teaching and learning process from information architecture and visualization perspective. It discusses how to apply these theories to develop the PowerPoint presentations that effectively support the instructional process. The discussion focuses on the aspect of visual design, textual communication and multimedia design. This paper examines how to prepare a highly usable and student-centered PowerPoint slides. The case study part presents our experience in preparation and innovation of the slides for Multimedia Technology Subject since the last five years. Example slides highlighting important instructional tips and tricks of using PowerPoint will also be presented.

1. INTRODUCTION

The application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the classroom is believed to contribute to innovative teaching and learning environments. Effective instructional support has a crucial impact on learning process especially on the students' cognitive effect. In this case PowerPoint is a unique teaching tool that has been widely used on and off the campus. The advancement in software development has made electronic presentation using PowerPoint as the norm in the university setting.

Ten years or so ago, it was very rare to see PowerPoint slides being presented with LCD projector in lecture halls and classes. However, recent advancement of ICT has made electronic presentations using PowerPoint become so popular and as a standard in the university environment [3]. As a result, most lecturers have embraced excitedly this technology. Some of them have developed greater amount of PowerPoint expertise. As a university lecturer, PowerPoint presentations have become an essential part of teaching and learning activity. Mastering how to prepare effective PowerPoint presentation contents has become crucial.

However, the true 'power' of PowerPoint has not much been explored to improve the teaching process. While PowerPoint has become a standard in many classrooms for creating presentations, it is often difficult to realize whether the content and design of your slide really has assisted the teaching process. The purpose of this paper is to share some tips to powering up your PowerPoint lecture presentation.

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes important consideration in designing PowerPoint Slide. Section 3 lists out several tips based on visual design, textual communication and multimedia design. We conclude with some issue and future works in section 4.