ICT-USE STANDARDISATION AT THE UPUA AS A TOOL TO ACHIEVE THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF SENIORS
The University of Alicante has gone through an ongoing technological evolution which has had a direct impact on the teaching/learning process, increasing accessibility to educational resources and contents, as well as communication with teachers and researchers, and encouraging lifelong learning.

It is in the latter area that access to ICTs has proved critical both in the self-learning process and in the development of over-50s’ personal autonomy.

The incorporation of state-of-the-art Digital Technologies, along with the social changes operated in the educational process, has led to conceptual and methodological shifts based mainly on a more active group-based, collaborative, tutored, self-learning work on the part of students, which has been supported on a continued monitoring of the process and an ongoing assessment by part of the teaching staff.
INTRODUCTION

During the last few years, these changes have been affecting the 50+ students who started their university training at our university in 1999, within the ‘Permanent University’ (UPUA) programme.

In addition to a wide formative offer a huge effort has been made to promote a training scheme based on the development of educational programmes through the use of the Internet, virtual tools and platforms, and other advanced multimedia materials.

For this purpose, a set of accessible, open means and systems have been developed that will allow students to access the information more easily.

Central to this strategy has been the importance assigned to the disciplines and courses which focus specifically on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), which have combined all the above with the aim of facilitating intellectual activity and access to science, technique and culture, thereby favouring social integration through the development of mechanisms and initiatives that encourage self-learning and the implementation of autonomous projects by students.
After taking part in a programme academically coordinated from the UA, the UPUA students will be able to continue their intellectual development and socio-cultural involvement in initiatives and projects focused on various knowledge areas (Literature, Sociological Research, Art, Environment) in which they are particularly interested, for which the ICTs in general and the virtual platforms in particular have come to be considered decisive, essential elements.

As for the actions and resources developed by the UA, they have made it possible to implement online training tools such as “Campus Virtual”, as well as a number of portals and services that have been grouped together under the name of “www.ua.es 2.0”, including: Portal Audiovisual; RUA – UA Institutional Repository; OCW-UA – UA Open Course Ware; BlogsUA; Urgent Notification Service via SMS through ‘Campus Virtual’; the free-access wireless network all over the University Campus and, finally, the campaigns to facilitate the purchase of laptop computers by students.
Thanks to all of the above, most UPUA students have now joined the ICT World, and senior students’ autonomous initiatives have been set in motion, among which stand out:

- **Club EuCoNet**
  [http://www.ua.es/en/upua/programasint/proyectoEuconet/euconet1.htm](http://www.ua.es/en/upua/programasint/proyectoEuconet/euconet1.htm);

- **Blog Palabras (WORDS)** [http://www.proyectosupua.es/palabras/](http://www.proyectosupua.es/palabras/);

- **Portal of the AAUP** (Association of UPUA Students and Alumni) [http://www.ua.es/upua/aaup/](http://www.ua.es/upua/aaup/)
  all of which are currently working at full swing.

- Other initiatives find themselves on a development stage, e.g. Conversations at the UPUA;


- and the **Portal of Experience** (an Intergenerational Observatory). Information about them all can be obtained at [http://www.proyectosupua.es/index_en.html](http://www.proyectosupua.es/index_en.html)
Senior Students Initiatives

- Palabras
  Permanent Literature Seminar
- ODE
  Open Doors for Europe
- Talleres de la Experiencia
  Voluntary Workshops
- Permanent Seminar:
  Seniors and Mass Media
- UPUA's Free Books at the University "Book Crossing"
- UPUA's Student Association
- Permanent University's Conversations at the University
- EuCoNet Club

National and International Institutional Projects

- Proyecto AEPUMA
- AEPUMA
  Analysis and Evaluation of Senior's University Programmes
- eLILL
  eLearning in Later Life
- INTEROBE
  Intergenerational Observatory
- SENNET
  Seniors in Net
CLUB EUCONET

- It started working in the 03/04 academic year. It was promoted by a group of voluntary UPUA students belonging to the EuCoNet international working and research group. Its main goal is to help other students interested in approaching and learning to use the New Technologies. It is basically oriented to all students who wish to take up computers, who want to solve specific questions, and also to overcome their fear of computers.

- At present, CLUB EUCONET has more than 80 students who develop a six-hour-a-week ongoing activity between September and June. The classrooms and resources are provided by the UPUA, along with the academic advice, and the daily work is assumed by the 12 students/tutors.

- A new stage started in 2007, which includes the development of research works, as well as the organisation of forums, debates and contacts with other study and self-learning groups, and collaboration has been established with other ICT-oriented working and research groups belonging to other initiatives and areas. You can visit the following webpage: http://www.ua.es/en/upua/programasint/proyectoEuconet/euconet1.htm
Presentación de la Iniciativa

El Club EuConet constituye una “Buena Práctica” resultado del Proyecto EuConet cuyo objetivo era ayudar a las personas mayores a utilizar Internet.

La Universidad de Alicante, por medio del programa Universidad Permanente se incorporó en el año 2005 a los proyectos europeos de aprendizaje de nuevas tecnologías de la Información y la Comunicación para personas mayores.

Ante el reto de hacer accesible a la mayoría de europeos al acceso a Internet, se situaba la realidad de dejar al margen de este desarrollo tecnológico a un buen número de ciudadanos europeos mayores. La edad era un evidente factor de exclusión a finales
In 2006, a woman teacher who had long been imparting literature, literary criticism and writing subjects designed a voluntary Literature Permanent Seminar with the support of the UPUA. This seminar, along with the study, debate, research and creation tasks, helped to establish the need to create a portal or blog which could permit dynamic and accessible work as well as communication between users and students of this seminar.

A group of students who took part in this self-learning project have set in motion the ‘Blog Palabras’ (linked to this Permanent Literature Seminar) in 2007. See www.proyectosupua.es.

This initiative has made it possible to widen the training, research and communication possibilities and, above all, the creativity of the 40-odd students who took part in this Seminar during the 2006-07 academic year. It is expected to grow in years to come, thus favouring a larger communication flow.
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The Association was born with the desire to improve the relationships between these students through the organisation of formative, cultural or fun-oriented activities. The Association members seek to become part of the ‘university world’, thus favouring intergenerational links, to contact the other domestic or international Universities for Older Adults, and to join all seniors’ organisations.

A visit to this portal gives information about the Association (subscription form, members, the Statutes, leisure and cultural activities —travel, auditions, theatre, etc.— as well as academic ones —seminars, conferences, debates, workshops, exhibitions, congresses, technical sessions, etc.—), publications such as the AAUP magazine, along with the numerous events in which the Association has intervened and a wide range of photographic reports of its activities, as well as some links that senior students could definitely find useful and interesting.

A close collaboration exists between this Association and the Permanent University for the purpose of dynamising and improving the education and socio-cultural integration projects which affect this group of senior university students.
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CONVERSATIONS AT THE UPUA

• 2006 was the starting point for this initiative, in which a group of volunteers who spoke several languages (Spanish, English, French, German) decided to have meetings with members of the university community in order not only to improve the use and knowledge of these languages but also to enhance the level of sociocultural integration of participants in this project, who came from different cultures and countries. Thus, students have at their disposal this space to practice, perfect and develop the language beyond grammatical mastery, for other participation and collaboration purposes.

• The group has involved a significant number of students and collaborators and it has worked so well that they have developed an online communication platform which can permit open access and groupwork with other segments interested in the knowledge of the language and culture of different countries. There is also an intention to open this platform to a wider generational spectrum so that young people can be attracted too.

• From the very beginning, this project has counted on the support of foreign residents living in our country who have helped to dynamise this group of work in various languages and cultures.
An initiative in which UPUA students and alumni do research on “what image of seniors is projected in the different artistic manifestations and mass media: this image is analysed; it is compared to the participants’ own perception of reality and... action is taken accordingly”. Among the actions planned stand out the following: seniors in literature, in painting, in cinema, in the mass media, in advertising, seniors and laws, and seniors and the economy.

The overall objective of this initiative consists in **improving the social consideration of senior citizens as well as their self-esteem**.

A total of 12 students from the Senior Diploma have been involved this first year (2006-2007). Among the results obtained are the preparation of a manifesto, the publication of several articles in the (written and digital) press and the participation in a forum.

As for the 2007-08 academic year, there is a programme of seminars, debates and research groups that will similarly show their results in the blog linked to the web portal of this initiative.
Presentación de la Iniciativa

Introducción y antecedentes:

Tal como argumenta acertadamente el periodista alemán, Frank Schimmacher, doctor en Filosofía y editor del diario Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, en su libro El complot de Matusalen.  

Noticia relacionada en el diario "La Verdad". Denuncian el exceso de estereotipos en el lenguaje de los medios.
A group of students belonging to the AAUP set up the Experience Workshops in 2005. These early workshops dealt with a number of different thematic areas, e.g. employment, politics, sexuality, gender, and immigration. There are plans to continue implementing these experience and knowledge exchange workshops and to enrich them with the support of online services and resources.

In this way, with various pilot groups focusing on specialisation areas, and always with the support of the volunteers and collaborators involved in the operation of this Portal, we want to use the ICTs to expand this initiative, so that it can reach a large group of users and therefore help to overcome the digital divide that often separates seniors from the rest of the society. Other objectives are to help the different generations to have a better knowledge of their respective specific contexts and to teach them how to support and help each other in the common interest of sociodemographic segments that are seemingly so far apart.
UA has created the Technological-Educational Innovation Area within the Computer Service. This area arises with the purpose of delivering a series of services and with the ultimate aim of contributing to the improvement of the teaching-learning processes. All the information related to this area can be consulted at:

http://www.ua.es/es/servicios/si/ite/
RESOURCES, TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT AT THE UA INSTITUTIONAL WEB

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Campus Virtual (CV) is an Internet-based service which complements teaching and academic, as well as administrative management, and is addressed to the whole University community (teaching and research staff, students, and administration and service staff). It has been entirely developed with UA resources and staff and the whole university community participates in it to a greater or lesser extent.

For the teaching staff, it is a first-class technological resource, because it makes easier teaching management, research, student management, online connection with the resources required for teaching and their evaluation through the exchange of assessment practices and tests. Therefore, not only does it offer the possibility to obtain the personal card of each student and the class list, the appointments, the attention hours, the diary, and other purely administrative issues, but also makes it possible to manage the bibliography recommended for each subject, to receive and answer students’ questions, to propose and chair debates, and to supply online materials and resources to students (with unlimited access), once these resources form part of the discipline imparted or the programme in which students have enrolled.
Likewise, students have the reciprocal advantages of training, practice and research, a series of options through which the management of their studies is made easier, as they can register, check their academic record, meet their classmates and contact them (either using the e-mail addresses or in the debates, tutored sessions or working groups set up by the teacher).

This tool equally acts as a complement to class teaching, though this will always depend on how teachers use it and the extent to which they do so. In this way, a student will be able to: take part if the teacher opens it; to download materials as long as the teacher has put them at the students’ disposal, to visualise the recommended bibliography, and so on.

Apart from the teaching management options for both teachers and students, CV is a powerful management tool thanks to which teachers can manage their curricula, see their payslips, make appointments for medical check-ups and monitor their research projects, among other things. The Administration and Service Staff can also see their work records and time control sheets.
The Permanent University has been developing formative actions specific to the Campus Virtual tool for years now. Such actions are programmed using a didactic methodology that is in keeping with the requirements and needs of senior students. Thus, at the beginning of each academic year (between September and November), we offer students the Conéctate (Get connected!) courses, the objectives of which are:

1. To provide an overview about the possibilities of the Information Society, of the resources available to the UA, and of free software.
2. To get to know and handle the technological resources that the University of Alicante places at its students’ disposal.
3. To introduce students to the ‘teletraining’ methodology.
4. To offer a tour of the institutional website.
5. To empower students to access CV and make them aware of the possibilities provided by this tool and the personalised tutorial sessions created for the student.
6. To make students familiar with the virtual services delivered by the UA Library.
7. Blogs UA.
This free, voluntary training procedure has been used by 450 students every year, since work on the areas of training and ICT-access started at the UPUA. This has meant a great step forward in terms of online usage of this tool, an increased access of older adult students to teaching resources, and a greater involvement in the learning process.
WEB 2.0

A number of new projects and portals are grouped together under this name, which has been chosen for two reasons.

Firstly, because these projects are characterised by being inspired in the philosophy and principles of the web 2.0, i.e. based on users’ communities; social networks; interactivity, participation and collaboration; multimedia content; and simple, user-friendly edition tools.

Secondly, because these projects have been defined and designed after the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the UA institutional website, and therefore will start being implemented during the second decade of life of the website.
It is a joint initiative of the Institutional Relations and the Technology and Educational Innovation Vice-rectorates born with the objective of managing, preserving and giving access to a collection of audiovisual resources available at the University of Alicante. Likewise, it seeks to make this University better known nationally and internationally and to encourage open knowledge. Its main functionalities consist in housing all the audiovisual production generated at the events which take place at the university premises, in spreading the results of major research and scientific gatherings, as well as providing access to the audiovisual collection of the UA.

For any other events of institutional, academic or cultural interest, the University of Alicante offers a real-time recording and/or broadcasting service through the Internet, using the streaming technology (which consists in transmitting video and audio through the Internet in real time). Thus, it will be possible to follow live from anywhere in the world the events which are taking place in one of the UA sites equipped with this service.
AUDIO VISUAL PORTAL

PORTAL AUDIOVISUAL
UNIVERSITAT D'ALACANT

LA UNIVERSIDAD DE ALICANTE TE OFRECE

VIDE INSTITUCIONAL
VISITA VIRTUAL
PROGRAMA CAMPUS

GALERÍA UA
UA EN VIVO
ÚLTIMA HORA

AUDIO VISUAL PORTAL

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Universitat d'Alacant
Universidad de Alicante
RUA - INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALICANTE

- RUA is the UA institutional deposit of the works in digital format resulting from the research and teaching carried out at this university.
- RUA arises as a response to the increasingly widespread movement in favour of permitting the open access to the results of publicly-funded research. This open access to research makes its impact grow exponentially; in other words, the more access, the more visibility and impact for the work carried out. In order to ensure this increased impact, RUA has managed to place the documents deposited in the Repository at the highest positions in Google searches.
- In turn, RUA responds to the need for storage, management and preservation of all the digital documents generated by UA members that can prove useful to the scientific and teaching community, thus avoiding their physical scattering and the loss of valuable works.
- Documents should be placed on RUA via a self-generated archive/file on the part of the authors themselves.
RUA. Institutional Repository of the University of Alicante.

Welcome to the Institutional Repository of the University of Alicante.

The RUA offers open access to full-text online documents generated by University of Alicante members in their academic and research activity.

The objective of RUA is to disseminate the scientific and academic production of the University, increase the impact and guarantee the preservation of such production.

RUA gathers together all types of digital material, both preprints and postprints, papers to conferences, work documents, teaching and learning materials, journals published by the University of Alicante, etc.

Areas in RUA

Select one area to browse by its communities.

Copyright

If you need to know the copyright policy of a journal or of a publisher before depositing your article in RUA, you can check SHERPA/RoMEO database.

How documents should be placed on RUA?

Documents should be placed on RUA via a self-generated archive on the part of the authors themselves. If you are a researcher and/or teacher at the University of Alicante and wish to make a record of your documents in the Institutional Repository of the UA, contact the Director of the Research Group or Department to which you are assigned, or contact us directly.
RUA - INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALICANTE

- RUA is structured in three sections:

  - **RUA Docencia** (Teaching) is the portal which provides access to the teaching materials and learning objects left there by the teachers and researchers belonging to this university community.

  - **RUA Investigación** (Research) is the portal which gives access to the documents generated by teachers and researchers in their research tasks. This deposit has as its aim to store, manage and preserve these documents and seeks to increase the visibility of the work carried out by the university community.

  - **RUA Revistas** (Journals) is the UA portal meant to house the journals in digital format published by the different UA units with the aims of guaranteeing the dissemination and preservation of the papers contained in these digital publications and avoiding their dispersion.

http://www.ua.es/en/rua/
It is a new space that tries to provide society with the contents of the programmes and knowledge that the University generates and imparts in its classrooms so that they can be shared with other ‘actors’, such as teachers, academics or students, among others. This is a web publication that grants access to the educational materials of university courses.

In order to consult these documents and, if necessary, modify them, free applications and/or those protected by open use licenses can be utilised, e.g. OPEN OFFICE or ADOBE READER.
OCW-UA. UNIVERSITY OF ALICANTE'S OPENCOURSEWARE

Para comenzar, elija una categoría y dentro de ésta un curso, o vaya a la lista completa de cursos.

El proyecto OCW-UA se inscribe en la estrategia por el libre conocimiento de la Universidad de Alicante denominada COPLA (Consorcio Universitario y Programas Límite de la Universidad d'Alicante).

Otros proyectos relacionados:

- contenidos_abiertos
- COPLA
- OCW CONSORTIUM

Nota importante: La Universidad de Alicante trata de seguir las recomendaciones de la comisión CRUTIC sobre el uso de formatos de documentos en las Universidades españolas.

Por ello, la mayoría de los documentos que podrá encontrar en el OCW-UA están en los denominados “formatos abiertos” o con “especificaciones públicas”.

Para poder consultar estos documentos y, si es el caso, modificarlos, puede utilizar aplicaciones gratuitas y/o amparadas por licencias abiertas de uso como son el OPEN OFFICE o ADOBE READER.

A blog is a periodically updated website which **compiles chronologically texts or articles by one of several authors**, with the most recent one appearing first. The author always has the freedom to leave published or remove what he considers appropriate. The term ‘blog’ comes from the words ‘web’ and ‘log’ (= ‘diary’).

The University of Alicante makes available to its community (students, Administration and Service Staff, and Teaching and Research Staff) a **completely free blog accommodation service**, the only requirement to use it being to own a university e-mail account of the type @alu.ua.es or @ua.es.

Although the UPUA students develop common and specific projects such as the Blog *Palabras* (words), they can also share this section which is common to the whole university community, where UPUA students belong too.
BLOGS UA

El proyecto blogUA se inscribe en la estrategia por el libre conocimiento de la Universidad de Alicante denominada COPLA. Por favor, consulta las condiciones de uso.

Últimas entradas
- Así no vamos en Tecnología, Educación y Valores
- Safari para Windows, ¡un nuevo gato en el carro! en software libre
- Alerta antiviruelas en Zayran
- Declaración de internos en Administración e Instalación de Redes de Computadores
- Páginas personalizadas en las universidades en Empresas
- Logos de ACUA en Grupo de Autocaravana de la Universidad de Alicante
- Kramer vs. Kramer o Gabino vs. Gabino en Blog de Criminología en qué sabes del flamenco?
- Schem en Enseñando de Informática
- El mordido y las ejercicios de teoría en Blog de Bases de Datos

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Campus Virtual incorporates the possibility of sending SMS messages. It is a new communication channel set in motion to complement the already existing channels (electronic mail, tutorials, notices, etc.) with the intention of meeting the very urgent, immediate communication needs.

Its use must be limited to exceptional situations, i.e. when very urgent, immediate needs arise. The global cost of the service may be substantial, which is why it must be used responsibly. This cost will initially be assumed by the University.
Along the same lines of technology-use development and promotion and for the purpose of making them more readily accessible to students, teaching and research staff and administration and service staff, the University of Alicante has reached **agreements with various computer firms** in order to facilitate the acquisition of laptop computers at a low cost or by means of financing systems.

- It is **essential to have a high accessibility level**, and the UA has adopted a strategy which values the chances to establish a connection to the wireless network that is achieved from **anywhere in the Campus**. Being able to buy a laptop more easily in order to access these online resources provides a good opportunity. The strategy assigns the same importance to network connectivity as to hardware and software possession. With all these measures, the University of Alicante tries to offer a better, freer and faster access to ICTs by the university community.
The Wireless Network is an extension of the UA Local Area Network which permits the access to the Internet and other telematic services without needing to have a fixed network connection.

This service is available to every member of the university community at the San Vicente Campus and at the ‘Ciudad de Alicante’ University Venue and its purpose is to provide users with access to the UA computer resources, regardless of their location. From any location at the campus, users will be able to establish a ‘wireless’ connection to the UA Wireless Network and access its habitual resources, to visit the www.ua.es website and, through that portal, to explore a wide range of online resources.
CONCLUSIONS

- The accumulated experience has allowed us to check how important it is to **develop didactic strategies** which foster **groupwork, collaboration and interaction** (both teacher-student and student-student) in **virtual teaching/learning contexts**.

- The activities proposed within the different projects and initiatives have generated a **high degree of motivation and involvement on the part of students** during the years of existence of the Permanent University programme, and the wide range of institutional resources and support means provided by the UA have had significant spin-off benefits for students and, consequently, for the society in general and the older adult segment in particular.

- This fact is illustrated by the active participation in the forums and in other environments where the different individual and collective works and projects have been developed.
This is why, we will insist on creating and developing active learning environments within our future educational and planning policies, which means encouraging and implementing didactic strategies based on the constructivist theory, taking into account the training needs, the application contexts and the specific characteristics of senior students.

Apart from virtual environments, emphasis will also be laid on the previous planning, not only of the materials which will enable the students to obtain the information, but also of the use of technological resources and a pedagogic design oriented to favour a certain type of learning and the previous training level that can enable them to access those resources in a non-traumatic way.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION

http://www.proyectosupa.es/index_en.html