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D292 Task 3

Identify the type of learning technology you are analyzing.

I have chosen Open Educational Resources (OER) as my type of learning technology. Open Educational Resources (OER) are defined as a “variety of materials designed for teaching and learning that are openly available for use by teachers and students, devoid of purchasing, licensing, and/or royalty fees” (EDUCAUSE, 2020). This technology allows teachers and students access to learning materials that are free and have no licensing requirements.

Some examples of this type of technology include:

- <https://oer.deepwebaccess.com/oer/desktop/en/search.html>
- <https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/open-pedagogy-incubator>
- <https://www.esc.edu/learning-support/thesis-generator/>

Identify a potential safety issue with this type of learning technology.

One potential safety issue related to whether the material being downloaded is free of malware and viruses.

One implication of this safety issue is site security. Is the resource where you are getting the information secure? Is the URL path **HTTP** or **HTTPS**? By recognizing this, users can be made aware if the site is secure and not transmitting data to other parties. Another implication is data privacy. Do you have to submit personal data to gain access? Is the data going to be sold and used for paid marketing? One of the focuses of OER is that information is free for use. Having to submit payment or personnel for registration is a big concern for teachers and students who value their information privacy.

Identify a potential legal issue with this type of learning technology.

One potential legal issue is related to copyright and trademarks.

Legal implications of this issue include that the work is fair use, public domain, or open content. The content should not be copyrighted, trademarked, and be able to use by the public. If copyrighted or trademarked content is made available on an OER, teachers could be held liable for its use in course materials. The next implication, modification of the content considers whether the content can be modified and adjusted for courseware use. Are teachers free to customize, share, and reproduce the content? If the answer is no, then the content is not openly available and free to customize.

Identify a potential ethical issue with this type of learning technology.

One potential ethical issue concern is that is content used is credible, and that authorship transparency is established.

Implications for ethics issues include authorship transparency and can other OERs support the material by providing the same content?" Relating to authorship, can the authorship of the content be verified, and credibility be established? Is the author reputable and credible? When looking to use the content for business or school content, the issue is that the material used may not be adequate for use or approved by governing bodies. For second implication, content transparency, the concern is that the content is also available on other OERs and can be accessed. There are many other OERs that offer content. The issue is figuring out which OERs can meet the teaching and learning needs of user downloading the content.

Based on your analysis, recommend whether this type of technology should be implemented and provide your rationale.

Based on my research, I can recommend open educational resources as a valid learning technology. UNESCO is developing a set of open standards regarding "legal and technical issues" relating to access to information on OERs (EDUCAUSE, 2020). This leads me to believe that OERs will become a safe and reliable method of gaining content for teaching. Also, that learners can be assured that the material is credible and reliable. As mentioned above, there are a variety of OERs out there available for use by the public. Each one has its own specific usage. By providing choices for the teacher and learner, equity is considered based on the availability and accessibility of content.

Works Cited

2020 *EDUCAUSE Horizon Report: Teaching and Learning Edition*. EDUCAUSE. (2020, March 2). Retrieved January 21, 2023, from <https://library.educause.edu/resources/2020/3/2020-educause-horizon-report-teaching-and-learning-edition>

Scholarly Commons. OER Pros/Cons and Evaluation Methods. (n.d.). Retrieved January 21, 2023, from <https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/oer/pro-con-oer.html>