WHERE WILL IT END? THE USE AND EVALUATION OF ON-LINE LEARNING IN UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

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The past ten years has seen a rapid increase in on-line delivery of educational material. The use of information technology can provide flexibility in the delivery of material and support different learning styles. However the evaluation of its effectiveness is difficult, particularly when it forms part of a larger learning environment.

ChemCAL is a suit of on-line modules containing information, questions, hints and explanations directed towards University students studying first year chemistry. It is used at both the University of Melbourne and University of Sydney. Both Universities have used ChemCAL for a number of years and it is now an established part of the curriculum. We are currently undertaking a study to determine how this resource is used by the students and their perception of its effectiveness.

This presentation will review some of the University, Department and student issues involved with ‘e-learning’. It will look at different ways to encourage student use of the resources available. The preliminary results of data collected from students that use ChemCAL as well as those that do not use this resource will be discussed.