

NETWORKS EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITIES

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With every day the impact of information technology on different spheres of human activity is increasing exponentially. This is applied also to education. Further development of education is impossible without the use of modern information technology. This form of education is more effective and preferable.

First, the introduction of ICT in education significantly accelerates the transfer of knowledge and accumulates technological and social experience of mankind, not only from generation to generation, but also from one person to another.

Secondly, modern ICT, are improving the quality of education and training, allow a person to adapt successfully and quickly to the environment and the ongoing social changes. It gives everyone the opportunity to obtain the necessary knowledge, both today and in future post-industrial society.

Third, an active and effective implementation of these technologies in education is an important factor in creating the educational system that meets the requirements of Informational society and the process of reforming the traditional educational system.

Integration of ICT and educational technologies should become a new stage in their more effective adoption into the Russian educational system.

Thus, in the path of Russia to the information society and the introduction of ICT in education can be divided into three stages:

- initial associated with individual use of computers, mainly for the organization of the educational system, its administration and storage of information about the management process;
- modern associated with the creation of computer systems, Internet and convergence of information and telecommunication technologies;
- perspective, based on the integration of new ICTs with educational technology.

The development of telecommunication technology leads to a rapid growth of various online communities. Among them are already-established nation-wide projects such as:

- Open Youth University
<http://omu.ru/>;
- Teachers Internet-state
<http://www.intergu.ru/>;
- Network of creative teachers
<http://www.it-n.ru/>;
- School sector <http://school-sector.relarn.ru/> etc.

Under a state contract "Creation and development of social and educational communities in the Internet-based training and education of students at the senior level of general education" to create a project of the Networked learning

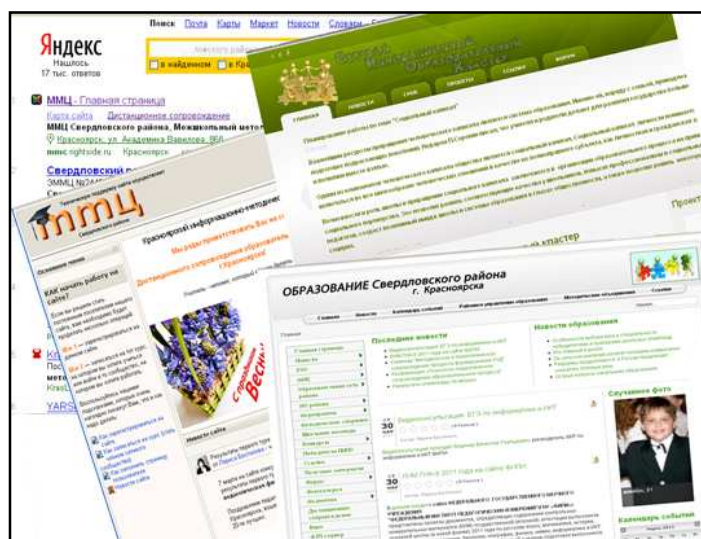


Fig. 1 Urban educational portal

communities “Open class” www.openclass.ru.

Each of these large-scale communities aimed at achieving specific goals and specific objectives, has a range of regular visitors and active participants.

Nevertheless, there are problems, defined by local characteristics, which are best addressed through less significant in terms of communities. In the first stages of its development, such communities are based on joint activities and are part of a larger project. Informational methodical centers Site (Fig.1) <http://mmc.rightside.ru/> was designed under the project "Computerization of the education system". It was needed for:

- support the processes of informatization of schools;
- support the professional development of teachers;
- widely distributed e-learning resources and introduction of methods for their use;
- modernization of methodological support of education informatization.

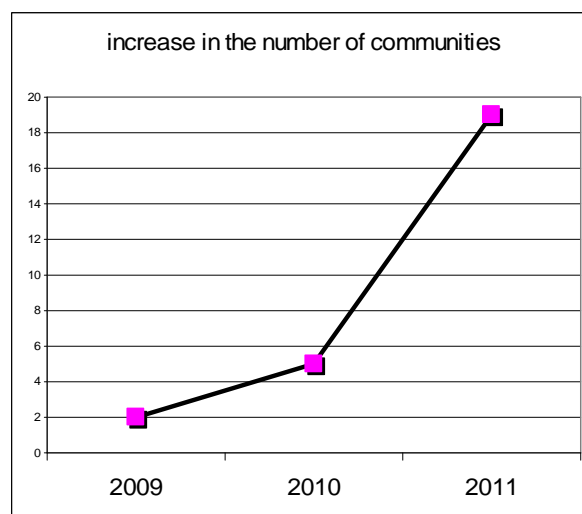
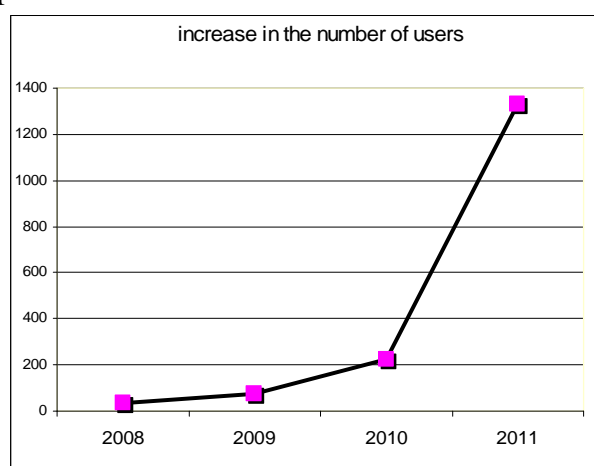
One of the sections of the site was devoted to the introduction of information technologies in educational process. There were published teachers methodical, training materials, were held discusses them. Gradually, the volume of materials has increased the number of users has grown. To date, only in this section have formed two separate resources - the multimedia library and distance support of the city educational community site. Currently, only the last resource has 1,320 registered users.

It serves as informational support:

- the district of the city events such as the Festival of teaching ideas, Festival “Image Epoch”;
- professional competitions (Teacher of the Year, Best Methodist);
- activities relevant to the professional community (Office of Educational Quality, "New federal government standards of education, specialized education in high school, further education);
- the work of urban communities of Methodists, psychologists, librarians, teachers of special subjects;
- teacher’s self-education in information technology.

The site is based on creative association of young teachers. Subject Olympiads and contests for teachers and students are conducted there.

The project serves as a platform for networking educators and students of the city. It can significantly increase the motivation of teachers to use new technologies for professional purposes. And also it eliminates the need for special events (training courses, seminars, etc.) to develop new tools of digital educational resources and tools. The site helps users to find educational materials, to presents teachers colleague’s experience from one schools to



other, becomes a launching pad for access to the limitless world of online learning communities.