M-Learning from an Academic Perspective

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ABSTRACT

It has become apparent that the way in which the world communicates and learns is evolving and adapting to the digital developments that surround our every day. Mobile phones have now overtaken laptops and PCs as the most widely used device to access the internet. This singular fact emphasizes the huge developmental opportunities for mobile learning, an extension of the well-known e-learning concept. Simply, m-learning provides the ability for individuals to learn whenever and wherever they like through the means of a portable digital device. The freedom, flexibility and availability m-learning provides, as opposed to standard teaching methods, is substantial. The opportunities carry benefits not only for those learning but also, often overlooked, those in the academic side of education. The study aims to establish the origins, concept and benefits of m-learning, particularly focusing on the movement from a pedagogical perspective.
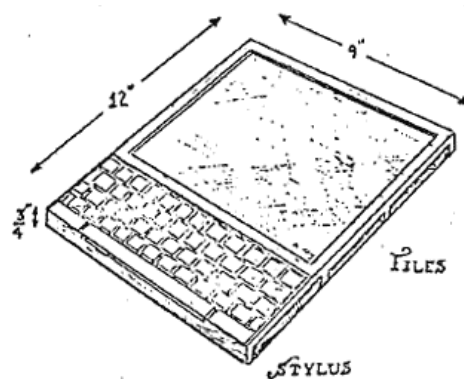
Figure 1. . Kay's illustration of the Dynabook,
a foundation for m-learning concepts.