ASSESSING STUDENTS ONLINE: ENABLERS AND BARRIERS TO USING E-PROCTORING AND ALTERNATIVE METHODS

Jarret Dyer[1], Zeenath Reza Khan[2], Christopher Hill[3]

[1] *College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, United States of America*
[2] *University of Wollongong in Dubai, United Arab Emirates*
[3] *British University in Dubai, United Arab Emirates*

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COVID19 forced universities to move all teaching, learning and assessment online (Coronavirus and school closures, 2020). While towards the beginning institutions were scrambling, making valiant attempts to ensure continuity of learning for students, soon the precarious issue of authenticity of student submissions and integrity of assessments became the point of discussion and worry. Many universities jumped to introduce online proctoring systems to help faculty members, especially during online examinations.

However, the backlash from both faculty and students has been resonating, making headlines globally (Swauger, 2020). It is important to note that currently, no international standards have been approved for the regulation and use of e-proctoring vendors. Best practices have been created by the Association of Test Publishers (ATP) and the National College Testing Associations (NCTA) (ATP-NCTA, 2015), but did not cover the full spectrum of services offered today. Further, technology has changed significantly since that time. Over the past several months, diligent work has been conducted to conclude a multi-year project by ATP and NCTA to develop standards (NCTA, 2018), however until approved, universities need to consciously weigh all the aspects of e-proctoring before engaging in these practices. That said, with recent findings indicating that e-cheating may be on the rise (Lancaster and Cotarlan, 2021), it is imperative to prepare now.

This workshop proposes to present a case study of the state of e-proctoring among US universities and foster a discussion to identify enablers and barriers to using e-proctoring services for online assessments. The workshop aims to introduce the possibility of guidelines and present a framework to govern and monitor such service use, discuss possible alternatives and review definitions of commonly used terminologies that need to evolve to recognise and include parameters such as crises, technology advancements, perceptions of privacy and data security and more.

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