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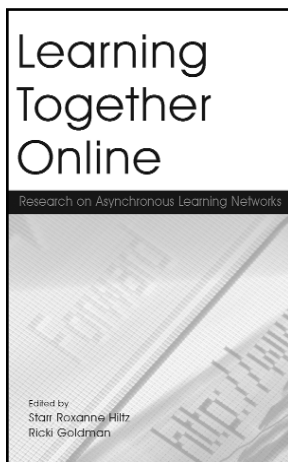
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LEARNING TOGETHER ONLINE RESEARCH ON ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING NETWORKS

Edited by

Starr Roxanne Hiltz, Ricki Goldman

New Jersey Institute of Technology



"Hiltz and Goldman and their collaborators have produced a comprehensive overview of what is known about research and theory in the educational use of asynchronous learning networks. This is a book you will refer to often-for ideas, theories, and references."

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"This much needed volume provides an overview and synthesis of leading edge models and research in online education. It is a valuable resource for instructors, a timely reference for policymakers and scholars, and an excellent text for students. Books like this also advance the field to help face-to-face classroom models evolve to include learning distributed across space and time."

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"...the best collection of information about learning networks that I have seen....The chapters are timely and useful. This [is a] benchmark publication."

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This book is about the past and future of research on the effectiveness of learning networks (also known as "e-learning" or "on-line learning" or "web-based learning"). Learning networks are groups of people using computer technology, communicating and collaborating online to build knowledge together. Over the past decade there has been an explosion not only of online courses, but also of studies on them.

In *Learning Together Online: Research on Asynchronous Learning Networks*, leading researchers in the field use an integrated theoretical framework, which they call "Online Interaction Learning Theory," to organize what past research shows and where future research is going. It models the variables and processes that are important in determining the relative effectiveness of online learners working to reach a deeper level of understanding by interacting with each other and with the texts under investigation.

Now that there have been hundreds of studies and thousands of courses offered online, what does the empirical evidence show? This book addresses the question directly by presenting what is known from research results about how to design and teach courses effectively online, ranging from the organizational context and characteristics of students to learning theories and research design methods. It also provides a research agenda for the next decade.

Learning Together Online: Research on Asynchronous Learning Networks is both a textbook for graduate students and a professional reference for faculty teaching online, researchers conducting studies, and graduate students taking courses about learning technologies who need to know the state of the art of research in the area of online learning.

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RESEARCH ON ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING NETWORKS

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New Jersey Institute of Technology

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