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INVITED SESSION

WEB-BASED EDUCATION: REVOLUTION OR FAD?

Moderator: **Gordon B. Davis**, University of Minnesota, U.S.A.

Debaters: **Cynthia Beath**, Southern Methodist University, U.S.A.

Dorothy Leidner, INSEAD, France

Leyland Pitt, University of Wales, United Kingdom

Han Van Dissel, Erasmus University, The Netherlands

Some interesting comments that might have been made over the years:

“Herr Gutenberg, I think your printing press is going to revolutionize education. Imagine how much faster students will learn when they have their own books.”

“Senor Marconi, your radio is going to revolutionize society. Everybody can now hear the opera and the orchestra.”

“Mr. Baird, your invention will revolutionize education. People will be able to see and hear the best professors and teachers. Television will educate everyone.”

“Mr. Watson, I recommend IBM make a major investment in educational software. Computers can do a far better job of assisting learning than books and teachers.”

And now:

“You know Tim [Berners-Lee], this WWW stuff will revolutionize education. Students can do classes on-line at their own pace when they want and wherever they are.”

By most reckonings, the only one to score in the great education revolution is Gutenberg. What is the likelihood of the Web revolutionizing education?

This debate will follow the traditional model. Two speakers will argue that the Web will revolutionize education and two will present the opposing argument. Gordon Davis will adjudicate the debate and make a concluding statement.