**Joint Master of Education program**

**HCM City University of Education – University of Houston**

**DESIGN OF ONLINE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES**

**FINAL WEBQUEST PROJECT REPORT**

Instructor: Dr. Nguyen Ngoc Vu

Student: Pham Ngoc Chau Khanh

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**Acknowledge**

No task can be achived alone, particularly attemping to finish a project of such magnitude. It took many special people such as my teacher, friends, my family to facilitate it and support it. Hence, I would like to acknowledge all of their valuable support and convey my humble gratitude to them.

First of all, I would like thank to my instructor Dr. Nguyen Ngoc Vu. I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude and deep regards to you. I am so lucky to become your student. You enhace my learning in Master study. You are well- organized and prepared, you contribute to improving my learning. You give us an opportunity to do project and providing us necessary knowledge. Thank you for your teaching and support me during the course.

I have put my best effort to make this project as informative and undersandable as possible. I have done the best I could do and have been honest to the school, to the professor and most importantly to my self.

The completion of this final project required a lot of guidance assistance from many friends and I am extremely fortunate to have got this all along the completion of my project work. Whatever I have done is only due to such guidance and assisstance and I would not forget to thank them.

Lastly, I thank almighty, my family for their constant encouragement without which this project would not be possible. They are always beside me to infuse spirit into mine.

Thank you all for supporting me in making this project a reality.

**ABSTRACT**

Online learning is method of delivering educational information via internet instead of in a physical classroom. In the morden life, when the young approach high technology in the world. They are required 21st -centurry skills: ways of thinking, ways of working, skills for living in the word. In particular, the use of computers with well-prepared educational materials not only in teaching and learning geometry, but also in other areas, arts and sciences, would enhance teachers’ teaching and students’ learning. It is clear that the Internet has a great influence on both students and teachers. Today’s students spend most of their time surfing the Internet. So, how do researchers, educators and teachers utilize the Internet for educational purposes? We have to find a solution which has to be suitable for both parents’ and teachers’ expectations.

A solution is WebQuest that relies on computer-based teaching. In this model students are learning by themselves on the Internet. The role of a teacher is to prepare his/her lesson on a website and give clear instructions with reliable links for his/her students. The role of students is to follow given instruction on the website and do the tasks by themselves responding to the expectation of teachers, which requires higher-order–thinking from the students.

WebQuest is one of types of elearning. WebQuest opens a new way of studying for students, it helps students to expand their knowledge depending on them doing experienence. if the students were doing a good webquest, they’d be engaged in the topic as it’s on computers, which they love using, and they have the opportunity to research what they like. So making a project of WebQuest is an interesting topic, and I can use it as a tool to teach students on internet. It is convinient for students to study and do research.

1. **Some concepts that I have learned in the Design of Online Educational Resource**

**Design of Online Educational Resource** is founded by Ph.D Nguyen Ngoc Vu. It is about new method of teaching, Dr Vu created a webpage in which he designed many categories that support us in studying Online Education. They are Course Chit Chat, Forum, Coffe Bar, Course Q&A, Course Whiteboard, Online Attendance Register,… They all bring a common interest that you want us to get familiar with online learning, an approach different from the traditional method. You can chit chat with your friends in Course Chit Chat, your questions are showed in Course Q&A and interesting discusions will give you anwsers. Coffee Bar is the place you relax disciplines, you have some talks with your friend about topic out of course content. In additon, I never forget to mention about Course WiteBoard, a web application built by google, this is an useful tool for teacher. This is greatly convenient and interesting because students can interact with their classmates and even with the teachers through computers. All the information is laid out visually and directly, which helps the teachers save time and energy in classroom activity. It helps students improve their writing skill, and students can give their own opinion with evidence-based information. Teacher can check his students’ attendence anytime. If I have longer time to take this course, I believe that I will join this course more effective. This course is quite strange to me so that I cannot take all its advantages. It is a model of online education and if you take this course, you will get interesting experiences.

During the course, I got some basic concepts about creating the simple web. First of all, I would like to mention about XML are initials for *E****X****tensible* ***M****arkup* ***L****anguage*. XML technology is used to edit for ED Quiz. It sets up the structure of questions and answer for the multiple choice questions tests.By applying XML technology, ED Quiz was prepared. ED Quiz is a software which is used to create multiple choice questions. Besides, I have learnt some tips in Win Word to work with Win Word faster and more effectively. I am really excited about the session. I know how to create multiple choice questions for my students with ED Quiz. In all subjects in my school from grammar, reading, listening to vocabulary, I also can prepare a test by ED Quiz in the multimedia room or in the class. And the important thing is that my students can do the test seriously. They have to be honest in doing the test as their results reflect their understanding.

XML is a markup language much like *HTML*. I learned about the HTML code - an abbreviation that stands for ***H****yper* ***T****ext* ***M****arkup* ***L****anguage*. It is the language of web pages- the [markup](http://webdesign.about.com/od/xhtml/g/bldefmarkup.htm) language that browsers read to render web pages. The differences between HTML and other programming languages is: HTML is not [compiled](http://javascript.about.com/od/hintsandtips/a/Interpreted-Or-Compiled.htm). It is written and used without any changes being done to it. I starts out a text file, and is still a text file when a browser or user agent interprets it. I also learned about the HTML tags that build the contents of a web page, HTML codings to create my own text. For example: <h>: heading, <b>: bold, <p>: paragraph, <br>: line break, <font color size>, <marquee>...etc.... Some first times, I am really confused to use HTML tags, beacause it requires the exactly codes’ structure so I feel stucked to repair it. It took me a long time to understand how it works. In the research process, I have met some difficculties in making some HTML codes, but I think if I study more about HTML, I will design many webs that support my students in the future.

Another concept releated HTML code, it is also a very necessary tool for me when designing my website - *Macromedia Dreamweaver*. Macromedia Dreamweaver is one of the most popular web-design programs in the industry. It allows you to develop professional websites and its user-friendly interface, tools and features have made it the must-have package for web designers. I am very interested in making website using Dreamweaver. I made a table, insert image, background, using Java Script to set time, etc...
Dreamweaver uses both *Cascading Style Sheets* (CSS) and *Hyper text Markup Language* (HTML) and it has good code- editing support features that will help me to write the CSS and HTML in the future. Alongside writing the code, the visual layout tools can be used to build the sites and make them look exceptional or professional.

All of these concepts that help me to built basic knowledge in designing web. I am interested in studying about them. In addition, I also have learned some other online applications such as: *Web evaluation, Sugarsync, Dropbox and Rubrics design*. First of all, I have to say I am fairly keen on Web Evaluation. It is very useful for me to search true information on the internet. Nowaday, there are too many websites, so you cannot know which information is reliable. In Web Evaluation lesson, I have learned six criteria to evaluate an website. They are : authority, accuracy, objectivity, currency, coverage, design. Web’s authority is creditable or not, it answers some follow questions: Is there an author or sponsoring organization? Is the page signed? What are their qualifications? Is there link to information about the author or sponsor? That is, is there a phone number or address to contact for more information? A website is accuracy if it have met reliable information, no gramatical, spelling, and typographical errors. There is an editor or someone who verifies, there is a biliography or other resource link clearly listed, the information contradicts information gathered. Then web users should focus the objectivity of the web. It is about Web’s purpose: public service or educational, sway opinion; Web’s advertising: the free information of advertising, clearly differented or not from the informational content... In my opinion, if your page provides accurate information with limited advertising and it is objective in presenting the information. Another necessary criterie is *Currency of Web*. If your page is current and updated regularly (as stated on the page) and the links are also up-to-date, ... Final criterion is Web’s coverage. If you can view the information properly - not limited to fees, browser technology, or software requirement,...You may have a Web page that could be of value to your research! All of six criteria are very important for Web users who want to get true information and support for their researching. As for Any meeting, it is one of interesting online education , Any Meeting offers free and low-cost web conferencing, video conferencing and webinar services with all the features and capacity of expensive services. With this app, users can attend and participate in Any Meeting hosted online meetings and webinars directly from their Android tablet. And this app is for meeting attendees only. The Any meeting is available for 25 and 200 attendees. In education, this online meeting is a technological innovation in education because teachers can teach their students online with the support of technology, and the students can experience a new learning style, in which they interact with the teachers and their classmates through computers, and they can search for reference information through the Internet when they learn. I also mention to Rubric, this is one of online applications that makes me be interested in using for teaching <http://rubistar.4teachers.org>. Teachers use Rubrics as a means of communicating expectations for an assignment, providing focused feedback on works in progress, and grading final products. Rubrics are often used to grade student work but they can serve another, more important, role as well: Rubrics can teach as well as evaluate. When used as part of a formative, student-centered approach to assessment, rubrics have the potential to help students develop understanding and skill, as well as make dependable judgments about the quality of their own work. Students should be able to use rubrics in many of the same ways that teachers use them to clarify the standards for a quality performance, and to guide ongoing feedback about progress toward those standards.

What is WebQuest? Why do we use WebQuest in teaching? I have learned about WebQuest. I acknowledged my teacher Dr.Vu who tauhght me during the course Design of Online Educational Resource. Throught the course, I can apply knowledge to create my own web. Creating a WebQuest is an interesting topic for my application. WebQuests are activities, using **Internet resources**, which encourage students to use **higher order thinking skills to solve real problems.** WebQuest is an inquiry-oriented activity in which some or all of the information that students interact with comes from the Internet. It is quite fun and linked to previuos and subsequent activities. It focus student centered and promote scaffolding. Teachers around the world are making WebQuests for their own classes as well as to share. There are 6 essential components of a WebQuest. They help students to orient in the short way to find out the problems. They are introduction, task, process, resources, evaluation, conclusion. Introduction prepare and hook the reader, provides background, communicates the “ Big Question”. Task is a clear description of what the end result of the learner’s activities will be. Then process, it is a description of clearly defined steps that learners should go through in completing the task, and provide learning advice. Resources are list of on-line resources which the instructor has located, ones that will help learners accomplish the task. They are pre-selected by the teachers. In the evaluation, teachers use a rubic that examines the different aspects of the stundent poroduct, it is designed by the teacher are the most authentic assessments. Final component is conclusion, conclusion brings closure to the WebQuest, summarizes the project, reviews what the students have learned, encourages reflection and exploration of the topic, and gain feedback from stundents. Beside that, teachers can create some pages such as: teacher note, gallery, about me,... It makes WebQuest look more proffessional and abstractive to students.

1. **The accomplishment of my WebQuest project**

## Prepare

The project always begins from the ideas. The way to get startup ideas was not easy for me. Ideas are very important for a project. I read books, searched information on the internet, looked for materials. Then, I decided the WebQuest “World Tree Preservation”. It is about tree preservation, why they are important, how human activity affects them, and what we can do to protect them… First of all, I wrote the WebQuest content of six main parts: Introduction, task, process, resources, evaluation, conclusion. In introduction, I given them a big quesntion like: Have you ever wondered what a world without trees would look like? Close your eyes, and try to imagine a desolate Earth. I think this questions will abstract students to go to the tasks. When go to the Tasks page, students have to do two tasks to finish. One is a suggestion of making pamphlet, in the other, students have to prepare a presentation powerpoint. Next part is process, I give students instruction that helps students to finish the task step by step. I describe the instruction by some activities and students just follow them. To do process, students need some useful resources, so I provided reference links, video clips, photos about tree in the world…and students will use them for their projects. After resources page, students will go the evaluation to know some criteria for their project, this part will show for students what they got or not, so they have to complete them . I use <http://rubistar.4teachers.org> for evaluation page. It is quite common- used to evalute students’ project for teachers. In conclusion part, students know that they finish their project, they will show it their friends, or their class.

### When finish the WebQuest ideas, I create some more pages such as: Home,Gallery, Teacher note, About me. They makes my web look more professional. In Home, I wrote an introduction about my WebQuest, students have an overview about it, and they have a look to another pages. Gallery page gives students some more pictures about trees in the world and their benefits. Teacher note page provides students some teacher’ advice and they should know Web’objectives and goals. About me page is about me who designed this WebQuest, it includes my information, name, email so that students can contact to me via email. After that I make plans for all ideas by look for information from many kinds of materials: internet, guide books, video clips….

### For the Website, I found the approriate template for my project. I design it for my topic, so I also try to find some pictures related to decorate this Web. I use Dreaweaver 8 to pre-design my web more beautiful. Some free templates on the internet are really beautiful so I think if I use them for my project, I will save times to find information and materials for my project. In addition to this, I looked for some HTML codes that make some effect for my design. It is really interesting to express unique impression for my WebQuest.

## Process

## After preparation time, I began to go the process with set-up ideas. First of all, I used Dreamweaver to save main template page from downloaded template, from the main template I created and saved as pages such as : Home, WebQuest, Gallery, Teacher Info, About me. In this way, all the pages link together when I reform something in the main template, they will changes together and it can save time for me.

## For the banner, I really like the banner with slide show, but my main template has no this style, so I try to find information on the internet, I unsuccessfully got the way for this, I try it many times, but it still not work. So I just make the banner as simply as possible.

## First I inserted the code into website:

<div>

<a href="index.html" id="logo"><img src="images/logo.png" alt="logo" width="451" height="63"></a>

 <div>

 <p>&nbsp;</p>

 <ul>

 <li> <a href="index.html">Home</a></li>

 <li> <a href="webquest.html">Webquest</a></li>

 <li> <a href="gallery.html">Gallery</a></li>

 <li> <a href="teachernote.html">Teacher Note</a></li>

 <li> <a href="about.html">About Me</a></li>

 </ul>

 </div>

</div>

## And then I tested it on the Web and resized, adjusted to the perfect one as possible.

## At the bottom of the WebQuest, I marked my authority of the WebQuest by giving some information about my name, my instructor and the time. With the same style for all the pages, I went to main template to repair, they changes all the same style I want.

## As for the WebQuest, I created one WebQuest template from the main template. And I devided each page into 2 collums. One is the page ‘s content and another includes slide pictures by adding <marque></marque>.

<td width="250" valign="top"><marquee id="marq" scrollamount="3" direction="down" loop="50" scrolldelay="0" onMouseOver="this.stop()" onMouseOut="this.start()">

<img src="images/featured1.jpg" width="250" height="190"/>

<img src="images/featured2.jpg" width="250" height="190"/>

<img src="images/featured3.jpg" width="250" height="190"/>

<img src="images/featured4.jpg" width="250" height="190"/>

<img src="images/featured5.jpg" width="250" height="190"/>

<img src="images/featured6.jpg" width="250" height="190"/>

 </marquee></td>

## In the WebQuest template, I inserted a table with 3 collums and 2 rows. I have 6 squares for 6 parts: Introduction, Task, Process, Resources, Evaluation and Conclusion. I added six icons suitable for 6 titles, each of which represents a WebQuest component. Then I inserted those into 6 squares of the table. Then from WebQuest template, I built 6 pages saved as: Introduction, Task, Process, Resources, Evaluation and Conclusion.. Next step, I want to show some changes and click every icon , it will go the linked page when I move the mouse to every square in the menu.

<div align="center">

 <table width="800" height="152" border="1">

 <tr>

 <td>

 <div align="center"><img src="images/icon 2.gif" alt="image" width="100" height="65" style="float: left; padding-right: 20px;">

 <h2 align="center"><a href="introduction.html" class="style4">Introduction</a></h2>

 </div></td>

 <td>

 <div align="center"><img src="images/icon 6.jpg" alt="image" width="100" height="65"style="float: left; padding-right: 20px;">

 <h2 align="center"><a href="task.html" class="style4">Task</a></h2>

 </div></td>

 <td>

 <div align="center"><img src="images/icon 5.png" alt="image" width="100" height="65" style="float: left; padding-right: 20px;">

 <h2 align="center"><a href="process.html" class="style4">Process</a></h2>

 </div></td>

 </tr>

 <tr>

 <td>

 <div align="center"><img src="images/icon 4.png" alt="image" width="100" height="65" style="float: left; padding-right: 20px;">

 <h2 align="center"><a href="resources.html" class="style4">Resources</a></h2>

 </div></td>

 <td>

 <div align="center"><img src="images/icon 3.jpg" alt="image" width="100" height="65" style="float: left; padding-right: 20px;">

 <h2 align="center"><a href="evaluation.html" class="style4">Evaluation</a></h2>

 </div></td>

 <td>

 <div align="center"><img src="images/icon.jpg" alt="image" width="100" height="65" style="float: left; padding-right: 20px;">

 <h2><a href="conclusion.html" class="style4">Conclusion</a></h2>

 </div></td>

 </tr>

 </table>

 </div>

## I used CSS to change the font color and background color when the mouse moves to the menu:

.style1 {color: #00FFFF}

a:link {

color: #0000FF;

text-decoration: none;

}

a:visited {

text-decoration: none;

}

a:hover {

text-decoration: none;

color: #FF3366;

}

a:active {

text-decoration: none;

}

## I did them same work in menu of the main template.

## After creating 12 pages for my Web, I put the content for each of them. In Home page, I introduced my WebQuest. Like the Home page I put the contents to Teacher note, About me page. Especially, in the WebQuest page, it includes 6 another pages, so I went into each of pages, I put a content related the title. Then I formed the contents of six pages in my designing. Some sentences for introduction are in the Introduce page, I gave tasks for students in Task page. I wrote some activities to help students to finish the task in the Process page, I designed Process page with some icons. In the Resources page, I provided students many kind of useful links such as: news, photos, video clips,… I added some small lovely icons in the page. Students have to know some criteria for evaluation, so I used <http://rubistar.4teachers.org> and write a table of criteria for their project in Evaluation page. They will try to do all tasks the best. In Conclusion page, students know that they finish the task and prepare to show their presenting to their friends.

## For the title of each of 6 pages, I want to choose the abstractive logos for each page of them, I use <http://cooltext.com/> . I was really interested in creating them. I can create many styles of logo, but my WebQuest is in the simple style so I just use the simple logos and I saved them as images file. I inserted them for suitable pages. What’s more, in order to make it easier for students to navigate the WebQuest, I created nonlinear navigation scheme for each page. In other words, the page Home has a hyperlink to the page WebQuest. Each part of the WebQuest provides a hyperlink to the next part: Introduction page has a hyperlink to Task page; Task page has a hyperlink to Process page, and so on. This allows the students to follow the sequence of the WebQuest components correctly. The HTML Hyperlink tag is simple to do: I just highlighted the words that contain the hyperlink (and it is suggested to do this in the Code layout), clicked Insert and chose Hyperlink tag. When the Hyperlink box appeared, I chose the appropriate link and link to next page.

## To do the given task is not easy for students. They are required to be patient, hard working, time-consumed. I designed Gallery page for relaxing with some pictures related by tree preservation topic.

* 1. **Completion**

Through this process, I discovered new knowldege to design the website, there are some difficults parts I met, there are also some interesting parts I really enjoyed:

### *The parts of web design I most enjoyed:*

I really enjoyed the parts : creating some logo titles, inserting images for the web. Some webs that creates online text logo and there are varieties of font styles for choosing. It is also difficult for me to choose the one style suitable for my Web. I was interested in inserting some small lovely icons, they make my web more beautiful. In addition, in dreamweaver, I can change words more colorful in my style. Futhermore, I got some experiences when I use some codes. It abtracts me to study more and more to improve my knowledge.

### *The parts of web design I most met difficulties:*

For the banner, my template has no style slide show box, I also try to decorate with slide show banner. I tried to find information in the internet, but I did not get it. It took me more time than another parts and make me a little bit disappointed. I am just an amateur desginer, so I had my specialized computer friend give me some guidance to do this idea. After that, my Web is designed in my style. I am really happy to make my own web.

## Implications to education

Why would a teacher want to use a WebQuest instead of more traditional teaching methods?

WebQuests promote student motivation and authenticity, develop thinking skills, and encourage cooperative learning. WebQuests increase student motivation by providing an essential question, real-life resources with which to work, and opportunities to work in cooperative groups. WebQuests, by their very nature, encourage the development of thinking skills. The assigned task requires students to transform information into something else: a cluster that maps out the major issues, a comparison, a hypothesis, a solution. In addition, WebQuests encourage cooperative learning among students. Because WebQuest tasks are often complex or involve controversial topics, students work in groups to complete tasks.

WebQuests bring learner-centered principles from the realm of noble idea to daily practice. As the American Psychological Association (1997/2003) articulated, the implementation of these principles benefits both students and teachers. When teachers facilitate well-designed WebQuests, they gain in-process professional development, moving them toward learning-centered practice. As they internalize and share their experiences, we all benefit.

To me, through this Design of Online Education Resource I have leaned useful knowledge in teaching and got many experiences from this course. Nowaday, most schools offer technology in classrooms, students use technology to research, organize and present material. So a professional teacher use technology as a essential tool in teaching. I hope that what I gather in during studying at this course will be considered as mean of teaching for me in the future.