

INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD

ISO/IEC
29140

First edition
2021-11

**Information technology for learning,
education and training — Nomadicity
and mobile technologies**

*Technologies de l'information pour l'apprentissage, l'éducation et la
formation — Nomadisme et technologies mobiles*



Reference number
ISO/IEC 29140:2021(E)

© ISO/IEC 2021



COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT

© ISO/IEC 2021

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, or required in the context of its implementation, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
Email: copyright@iso.org
Website: www.iso.org

Published in Switzerland

Contents

| | Page |
|---|-----------|
| Foreword..... | iv |
| Introduction..... | v |
| 1 Scope..... | 1 |
| 2 Normative references..... | 1 |
| 3 Terms and definitions..... | 1 |
| 4 Abbreviated terms..... | 3 |
| 5 Examples of mobile learning applications..... | 3 |
| 5.1 Online student use of mobile devices for learning..... | 3 |
| 5.2 Fluent speaking in English/fluent reading..... | 3 |
| 5.3 Digital textbook for innovative learning..... | 3 |
| 5.4 Mobile learning technology among final year medical students..... | 3 |
| 5.5 Augmented reality training system..... | 4 |
| 5.6 App for exam practice..... | 4 |
| 5.7 Implementation of app for academic success..... | 4 |
| 5.8 Tutoring, games and applications for language learning..... | 4 |
| 5.9 Evaluation of key factors that affect learner-empowered emergent technology integration..... | 4 |
| 5.10 Other examples of mobile technology for learning..... | 4 |
| 6 Learner information for mobile learning..... | 5 |
| 6.1 General..... | 5 |
| 6.2 Learner information model for mobile learning..... | 6 |
| 6.3 Minimum recommended learner information..... | 7 |
| 6.4 Optional learner information..... | 7 |
| 6.5 Dimensions for optimal learner experience..... | 8 |
| 6.5.1 General..... | 8 |
| 6.5.2 Learner dimension..... | 9 |
| 6.5.3 Content dimension for individual learner needs..... | 9 |
| 6.5.4 Device capability dimension to maximize the use of the mobile device..... | 10 |
| 6.5.5 Connectivity dimension to perform at different connection speeds..... | 11 |
| 6.5.6 Coordination..... | 12 |
| 7 Learner interaction with mobile learning system..... | 12 |
| 7.1 General..... | 12 |
| 7.2 Learners..... | 13 |
| 7.3 Resources..... | 13 |
| 7.4 ITLET system..... | 14 |
| 7.5 Devices..... | 14 |
| 7.6 Interface..... | 14 |
| 7.7 Environment..... | 15 |
| 8 Additional considerations..... | 16 |
| Bibliography..... | 17 |

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives or www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents) or the IEC list of patent declarations received (see <https://patents.iec.ch>).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html. In the IEC, see www.iec.ch/understanding-standards.

This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 36, *Information technology for learning, education and training*.

This first edition cancels and replaces ISO/IEC TS 29140:2020, which has been technically revised. The main changes are as follows:

- the list of definitions has been extended;
- the number of mobile learning applications has been expanded;
- recent references from the mobile learning literature have been included.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html and www.iec.ch/national-committees.

Introduction

Since ISO/IEC TS 29140-1:2011 and ISO/IEC TS 29140-2:2011 were published, there have been many technological innovations and increasing use of mobile technology in learning, education and training as indicated in many of the review and meta-analysis studies on mobile learning^{[1][2][3][4][5][6]}. These two documents were updated and replaced by ISO/IEC TS 29140:2020, which has now been replaced by this document. The growth in active mobile-broadband subscriptions has increased significantly, with penetration rates increasing worldwide from 4,0 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants in 2007 to 69,3 in 2018.⁷ The number of active mobile-broadband subscriptions have increased from 268 million in 2007 to 5,3 billion in 2018^[7]. In addition, almost the entire world population, or 96 %, now lives within reach of a mobile cellular network. Furthermore, 90 % of the global population can access the internet through a 3G or higher speed network^[7]. This is placing a sense of urgency to revise the standards for the use of mobile technology in learning, education and training.

At the same time, the technology, and the application of the technology, is changing at a fast rate. For example, 3D glasses are being used for virtual reality, augmented reality and mixed reality; and voice input and output are being used for language training. In 2020, a bibliometric review of 450 articles was conducted on mobile learning in higher education research using bibliometric methods. The results indicate that use of mobile learning is increasing^[8].

As schools, governments, organizations and businesses around the world design information for access by mobile devices, there is increased need to set standards for how information should be designed for delivery on mobile technologies to support learning, education and training. This increased need is heightened by demand for learning and training materials that can be shared easily between organizations and learners and made available to those in any geographical location. Mobile learning has the potential to provide learners with enhanced access to information and learning materials and guidance and support from anywhere rather than from a specific geographical location at a certain time. When mobile learning is implemented thoughtfully and well, it has the potential to increase efficiency and productivity for learning, education and training within different sectors (e.g. public, private, voluntary).

Mobile technologies, in addition to being a communication device, provide easy access to unlimited learning materials at any time and any place, which allows for student-centred learning and provides learning according to individual differences and needs^[5].

Mobile learning has the potential to provide learners with new opportunities to connect with other learners, to interact with teachers and trainers, and to co-create collaborative learning environments. This is a critical issue for learners who live in remote locations lacking wired connections^{[9][10]}.

There are a number of research teams in organizations and communities who are working on mobile learning. Many research studies and projects have been completed on the use of mobile technology in education and training. Additionally, work is already in progress in various countries around the world on related topics such as learning in different contexts, learning while on the move and the use of hand-held computers in learning.

It is important that the design, development, implementation and evaluation of mobile learning within learning, education and training environments takes place in a manner that is seamless, flexible and integrated. In short, mobile technology needs to be seamlessly integrated into teaching and learning activities that are supported by information and communication technology (ICT) in general. A review of models and frameworks for designing mobile learning experiences described different learning strategies for using mobile technologies in learning^[11]. These include:

- a) context-aware learning where learners can learn in their own context using wireless connection, global positioning systems, satellite connection and mobile apps;
- b) seamless and ubiquitous learning on the go and learning from anywhere because of the portability of mobile technologies; this learning strategy is important for the nomadic learners who move from one location to the next;

- c) game-based learning where learners are presented with different scenarios and challenges during the learning process;
- d) mobile computer-supported collaborated learning where students use mobile technologies to interact to complete learning activities in groups.

In the past, use of mobile technologies, because of their small size and portability, have been beneficial to nomads; however, the current mobile technologies are more powerful and they are being used in different locations and different contexts for learning. For example, mobile technologies can be used in a classroom to teach school-age children about disease transmission patterns; in medical education to support students learning about bedside clinical practice; in an industry to train employees how to maintain a piece of equipment; in a museum to give students a virtual presentation of a historical event; in a college to give students a virtual tour of an archaeological site, etc. The potential use of mobile technology is unlimited; its use will depend on the creativity of the instructional designer, teacher or trainer. An analysis of 113 global research studies on mobile learning in pre-kindergarten to Grade 12 levels found that 62 % of the studies reported positive outcomes, meaning that the majority of studies found that the use of mobile devices in a learning activity resulted in increased student learning^[3]. It also reported that the majority of the studies (50 %) took place in formal educational contexts while a setting composed of both formal and informal settings accounted for 27 % of the educational contexts, and the remaining 23 % of the studies took place in informal settings.

Mobile devices have been around for many years but are becoming more sophisticated. At the same time, there remain limitations and challenges when using mobile devices. For example, some learners find that the screen size is small when reading information and the keyboard too small for entering information. To help with these limitations, researchers are developing mobile devices with virtual screens and keyboards and voice input and output options, which will help to overcome some of these challenges and limitations. In addition, 3D glasses have been developed to address the issue of screen size and data entry.

Information technology for learning, education and training — Nomadicity and mobile technologies

1 Scope

This document establishes a learner information model specific to mobile learning to enable learning, education and training environments to reflect the specific needs of mobile participants. It gives guidance on the use of a learner information model for mobile technology in learning, education and training (mobile learning).

This document can be used as a reference by software developers, implementers, instructional designers, teachers, trainers, automated systems and learning management systems.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.