Foreword
by Gonca Telli Yamamoto

In the not too distant past, like 50 years ago, life was roughly foreseeable. There were a few choices one could make, and there were few options to choose from. However, the rapid development of technology increased our options excessively. This makes it harder and harder for us to make estimations for the future. We are all just trying to catch up with the new trends, while time is becoming more and more valuable each day. This being the case, adopting less time consuming practices seems more preferable; therefore, a need to emphasize distance education and e-learning applications has arisen.

The Information and Communication Technologies Revolution caused an upheaval in the social and educational texture. Most people would never have guessed twenty years ago that the educational applications would be where ICT is today. The Internet, Learning Management Systems (LMS), E-learning, m-learning, wireless technologies, and holograms are only a few of them. Who would have guessed that Artificial Intelligence would be a key part of our educational vocabulary a decade ago? It was just in the TV serials such as 'Star Trek.' Now we are witnessing science-fiction coming true.

Distance education has changed its shell within the century. The world's most prestigious universities have realized the importance of e-learning and began to use it in their courses. Not only the prestigious universities, but also all universities that want to thrive will be forced to use e-learning in the near future. We could say the distance learning component will increase its share in general learning over time, as technology takes its place among the basic needs and these instruments of training will be demanded by the wider masses (Yamamoto & Karaman, 2011).

Starting from correspondence teaching, distance education has come a long way in Artificial Intelligence. Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be defined as the operating systems that would do assessments and decision-making in various situations like human intelligence. According to Ranier and Cegielski (2013), AI is a subfield of computer science that studies the thought processes of humans and recreates the effects of those processes via machines, such as computers and robots.

Artificial intelligence applications, despite not being commonly used in distance education, require further dissemination. Artificial intelligence is one of the tools that have the potential to replace the old, accepted methods, ways, and means with continuous development. What is important here is to think outside the box: you cannot put new wine in old bottles.

This book covers some important Artificial Intelligence subjects. These are:

- Digital Library Proposition
- Educational Support Systems
- Intelligent Questioning Systems
- Intelligent Learning/Tutoring Systems
- Effective Courseware Design and Development

It is best to understand all these subjects and to create new bottles to put the new wine into. So, read on.

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