

Foreword

by Tim Thornton

I am very pleased to be able to write the foreword to this book. It is a significant response to the growing importance of mobile learning. It engages with the new conceptual frameworks which arise from this development and the state-of-the-art technologies which are involved. There is no question, as it explains, that teaching and learning are being enhanced by these emerging technologies and that there are significant further development on the immediate horizon.

The book's contents make clear the relevance of these new approaches and technologies across regional and cultural divides. Their impact is genuinely international. The contributions in this volume also suggest their applicability across diverse subject communities. The book deals with some of the cultural challenges in gaining the best results from mobile learning; it also offers detailed analyses of some of the software developments that are driving progress.

Mobile devices are increasingly the computing device of choice, and many people now go online primarily on their Smartphone. As we move from largely fixed computers to a combination of fixed and mobile devices linked seamlessly through cloud computing technology, these technologies become central to students' learning. This book not only highlights this importance, but shows cutting edge technological developments that allow this potential to be realised.

I know that here at the University of Huddersfield, thanks not least to Prof. Joan Lu's work, we are making significant strides in the development of mobile learning. For example, we have recently celebrated the National Teaching Fellowship awarded to Andrew Walsh, of Computing and Library Services, a well-known figure in mobile learning for information skills; and the mobile app developed by the University for its students has been shortlisted for the Times Higher Education Awards 2011. But we are very aware of the richness of work in the wider academic community, and it is a privilege to have been able to host this conference and be involved in the production of this book; it offers opportunities for learning and development both here and more generally.

Tim Thornton

University of Huddersfield, UK