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## FEATURED ARTICLE OF THE WEEK

**PewResearchCenter**  
*Internet, Science & Tech*

65% OF ADULTS NOW USE SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES – A NEARLY TENFOLD JUMP IN THE PAST DECADE

The graphic features a grid of social media icons including Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, LinkedIn, Pinterest, a messaging icon, a share icon, and an RSS icon. The background is a gradient of blue.

## Social Media Usage: 2005-2015

Nearly two-thirds of American adults (65%) use social networking sites, up from 7% when Pew Research Center began systematically tracking social media usage in 2005. Pew Research reports have documented in great detail how the rise of social media has affected such things as work, politics and political deliberation, communications patterns around the globe, as [...]

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### RESEARCH-BASED ARTICLES OF THE WEEK



#### Research Trends in Turkish Distance Education: A Content Analysis of Dissertations, 1986-2014

This paper presents a content analytic approach on doctoral dissertations in the field of distance education in Turkish Higher Education context from the years of 1986 through 2014. A total of 61 dissertations were examined to explore keywords, academic discipline, research areas, theoretical/conceptual frameworks, research designs, research models, tests and analyses, data collection tools, participants, [...]



#### Attitudinal Factors Affecting Wiki Group Collaboration for English Writing

Wikis, being one of the popular Web 2.0 tools, have impacted students' engagement and performance particularly in the aspects of second and foreign language learning. While an increasing number of studies have focused on the effectiveness of wiki in improving students' writing skills, this study was conducted to examine the attitudinal factors that influence English as [...]

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## Evaluation Criteria for Interactive E-Books for Open and Distance Learning

The aim of this mixed method study is to identify evaluation criteria for interactive e-books. To find answers for the research questions of the study, both quantitative and qualitative data were collected through a four-round Delphi study with a panel consisting of 30 experts. After that, a total of 20 interactive e-books were examined with [...]

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OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

## OER Quality and Adaptation in K-12: Comparing Teacher Evaluations of Copyright-Restricted, Open, and Open/Adapted Textbooks

Conducted in conjunction with an institute on open textbook adaptation, this study compares textbook evaluations from practicing K-12 classroom teachers (n = 30) on three different types of textbooks utilized in their contexts: copyright-restricted, open, and open/adapted. Copyright-restricted textbooks consisted of those textbooks already in use by the teachers in their classrooms prior to the institute, [...]

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## IN THE NEWS

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# MOOCs and Open Education

AROUND THE WORLD

## New Book: MOOCs and Open Education Around the World

MOOCs and Open Education Around the World. Edited by Curtis J. Bonk, Mimi M. Lee, Thomas C. Reeves, Thomas H. Reynolds. First published in 2015 by Routledge. As new digital forms of formal and informal learning proliferate, there is an increasing need to better understand how people in different regions of the world are [...]

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Students 2 Science



## Award recipient credited for pioneering Penn State distance learning program

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — Three members of the Penn State community will be honored for their vision, time and commitment to Penn State Outreach and Online Education (OOE) at an upcoming appreciation dinner. The Pennsylvania State University

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## How Online Education Helps the US Meet Growing Demand for Better Healthcare

## Launches Virtual K-12 Hands-On Science Laboratory Program

EAST HANOVER, N.J., Oct. 7, 2015 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ — Students 2 Science, Inc., (S2S), the nonprofit organization that literally brings elementary, middle and high school students to its professional chemistry laboratory in Northern New Jersey to experience hands-on science education, is expanding its reach beyond the lab's walls with the launch of its Virtual Laboratory Program (V-Lab). PR Newswire

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“With a growing number of insured patients overwhelming the healthcare providers in many areas, the ranks of NPs continue to expand to meet the need. But to accommodate the ensuing surge in graduate nursing students, online programs are needed to offer working nurses the ability to advance their careers and shoulder more responsibility for patient [...]

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