

Olaf Zawacki-Richter
Insung Jung
Editors

Handbook of Open, Distance and Digital Education

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Handbook of Open, Distance and Digital Education

With 82 Figures and 48 Tables

 Springer

Editors

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Preface

Open, Distance, and Digital Education (ODDE) includes all kinds of teaching and learning processes in which educational technologies, digital media, and tools are used to present and deliver content, as well as facilitate and support communication, interaction, collaboration, assessment, and evaluation. With the global Covid-19 pandemic, ODDE has now entered the mainstream at all levels of education, and a renewed dialogue on ODDE has emerged, engaging many regions and countries. The Handbook of ODDE arrives at just the right time, intending to provide a comprehensive and updated overview of the field for educators, researchers, policymakers, and administrators in a wide range of sectors such as k-12 education, higher education, adult education, and workplace training. This Handbook has brought together leaders and scholars in the field of ODDE from around the world to discuss diverse perspectives and research findings on all important issues in ODDE.

In carrying out this exciting project, we have tried to make our Handbook more comprehensive, inclusive, and open by covering all important issues and themes in ODDE; encompassing the past, present, and future of ODDE; and developing it as an open-access publication for our global readership. We have also made our Handbook both theoretical and practical by discussing theories and models in ODDE at the same time as offering practical approaches and policies for the development and implementation of ODDE in various contexts based on research evidence. With our conscious effort to represent different parts of the world in author selection, we have invited authors from more than 20 countries across all regions (Africa, South and North America, Asia Pacific, Europe, and the Middle East). Most of our authors have experience in more than one national context. Moreover, we have included authors with different views and backgrounds to gain perspectives from both developed and developing countries on the macro, meso, and micro levels of ODDE research and practice. Finally, we have paid keen attention to the impact of the recent Covid-19 pandemic on ODDE research and practice and the opportunities and challenges of new and emerging technologies and methods, including artificial intelligence in education, learning analytics, and other digital transformations in the ODDE context.

We would like to express our gratitude to the six distinguished section editors – Professors Junhong Xiao, Svenja Bedenlier, Ross Paul, Tian Belawati, Vanessa Dennen, and Richard West – and to all our authors for their dedicated contributions

to the Handbook. Furthermore, we thank the Springer team, Melody Zhang, Mokshika Gaur, Jacob Arun Raj, and Alice Xie, for their support and help during this project.

We hope that this Handbook will inspire coming decades of ODDE theory, research, and practice and contribute to shaping the future of ODDE.

Oldenberg, Germany
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Olaf Zawacki-Richter
Insung Jung

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