

## Interview

**Editor:** TOJET starts interview with specialists on telecommunication technologies and educational technology. The main idea of interview program is to get different perceptions about educational technology from Turkey, other Turkish countries and around the world. We will have two quest. One quest will be from other countries. Second quest will be from Turkey and other Turkish governments.

In this issue, I would like to introduce Prof. Dr. Don Flournoy from Ohio University, USA to you.

Interview with Dr. Flournoy

**Editor:** Hello Dr. Flournoy. Could you tell us about your academic life?

**Dr. Flournoy:** I am a Professor of Telecommunications and Director of the Institute for Telecommunications Studies at Ohio University, Athens OH USA. I research and write in the areas of new technologies and international development. My favorite courses are satellite communications, Internet communications and world media systems. I edit a new Online Journal of Space Communication ([www.spacejournal.org](http://www.spacejournal.org)).

**Editor:** What is the relationship between telecommunication and education?

**Dr. Flournoy:** A common definition of Telecommunications is the electronic creation, storage, retrieval, transport and display of information. Within the educator's toolbox, telecommunications will always be one of the most useful of tools.

**Editor:** What is the relationship between telecommunication and distance education?

**Dr. Flournoy:** With the invention of the telegraph, the electronic exchange of far off writing became possible. With the telephone, talking over wires became popular. With broadcasting, a single audio or video signal could be sent over the airwaves to many receivers. Now text, voice, graphics and video can be exchanged over modern telecom networks in the form of digital data.

**Editor:** What kind of telecommunication technologies can be used in distance education?

**Dr. Flournoy:** Digital scanners and cameras can be used to capture and record print, images, sights and sounds. Digital editing systems (available as software in a personal computer) can be used to package the collected experiences as educational lessons and modules. Digital storage systems (in the form of digital tape, zip drives, CDs. and hard drives) can preserve these database until they are ready to be transmitted, accessed and displayed for use.

Telephone, cable, wireless, satellite, broadcast and Internet systems all have their role to play in the transport of educational content over distance.

**Editor:** What is E-government?

**Dr. Flournoy:** Electronic Government is the use of telecommunications networks to transact public business. Since the Internet is a widely-available two-way network, the government can use it to make essential information available to the public, and the people can use it to make their views known as well.

**Editor:** What is E-education?

**Dr. Flournoy:** Electronic Education is the use of telecommunications networks to further the purposes of teaching and learning. Such activities include the electronic creation, storage, retrieval, transport and display of information.

**Editor:** What will be the future of distance education?

**Dr. Flournoy:** In the future, educational experiences will be richer in content, more global in scope and more under the control of the learner. Education will be less passive. Teachers will serve as travel guides helping students gain access to distant information, as information managers helping students sort through, evaluate and prioritize information for sense-making, and will serve as leaders of action (problem solving) teams putting information to use to the positive benefit of local communities.

**Editor:** Thank you. His adress and e-mail are below:

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