Instituto Superior de Paços de Brandão

E-LEARNING AND DISTANCE LEARNING: REFLECTING ON THE PAST

Training session – Iraq, 14-17 April, 2019

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DISTANCE LEARNING BEFORE E-LEARNING: THE TELE-ESCOLA EXPERIENCE (PORTUGAL, 1965-1987)

A story from the *Iliad* (6, 189-218)

The story goes back to the City of Corinth in the region of **Argos.**
Back in the day, when the queen of Argos, Antea, fall in love for **Bellerophontes,** a young warrior.
Bellerophontes refuses the love of the queen.

Feeling rejected, **Antea** decided to destroy **Bellerophontes** by telling the king, **Proetus,** that *he* had been putting the moves on *her*.

The king of **Argos** didn't like the sound of this one bit. He decided to send **Bellerophontes** on a mission **to Lykia.**

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A story from the *Iliad* (6, 189-218)

He gave him some tablets to take with him, on which were scratched symbols instructing the king of **Lykia** to do something nasty to **Bellerophontes.**

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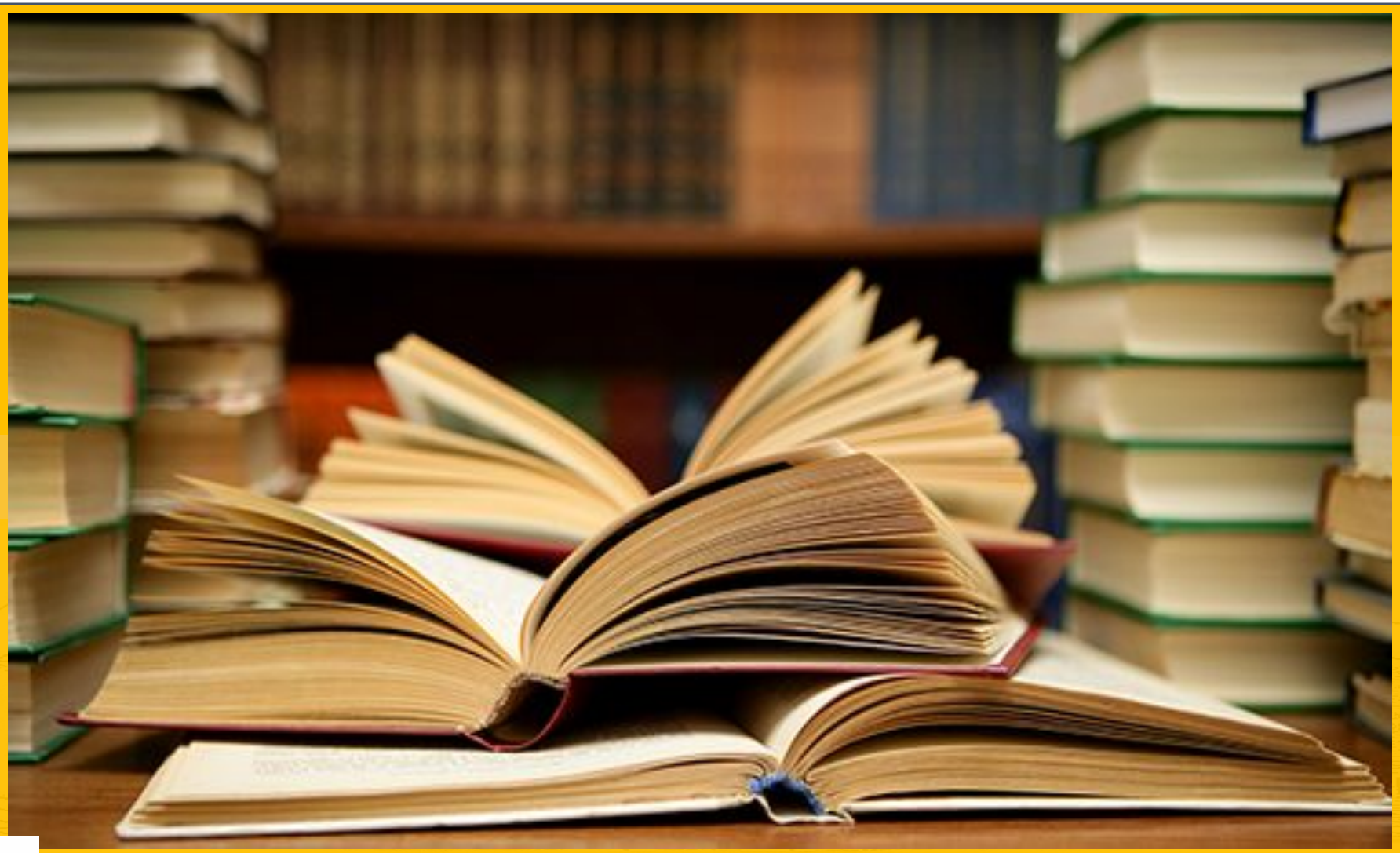

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DISTANCE LEARNING BEFORE E-LEARNING: THE TELE-ESCOLA EXPERIENCE (PORTUGAL, 1965-1987)

"The true birthplace is that wherein for the first time one looks intelligently upon oneself; my first homelands have been books, and to a lesser degree schools."

Marguerite Yourcenar, *Memoirs of Hadrian*

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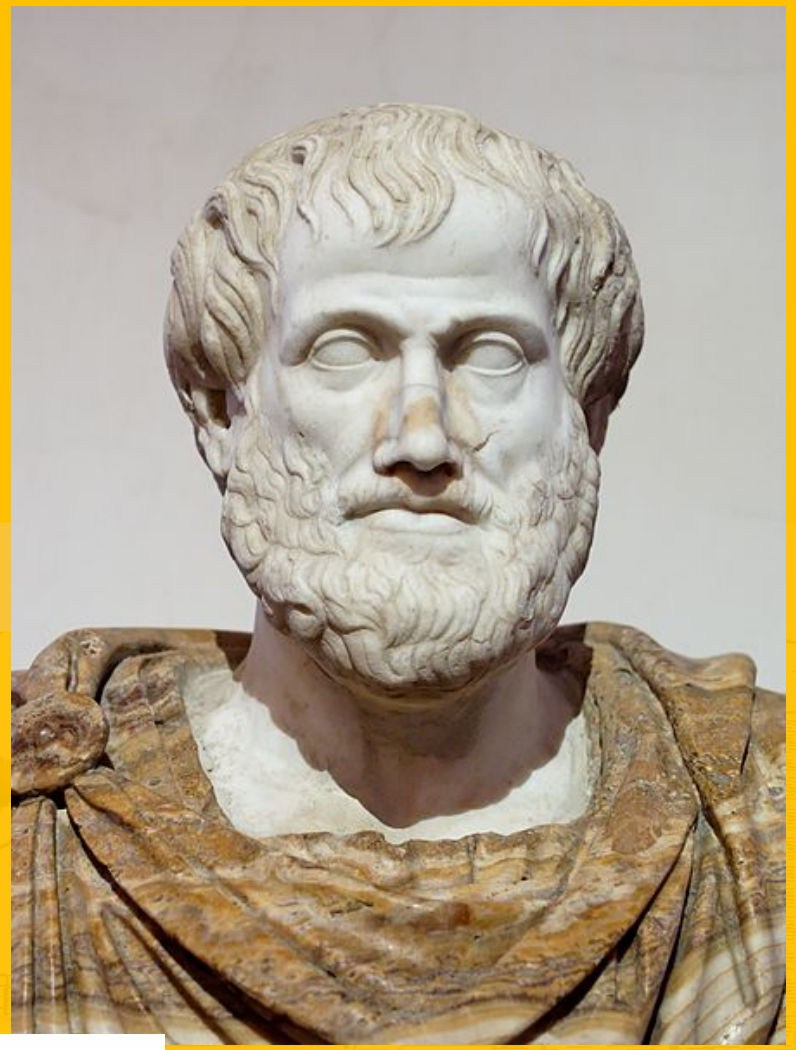

Aristotle, 384–322 B.C.

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Skippy the Bush Kangaroo, 1967-1969

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The Tele-Escola

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DISTANCE LEARNING BEFORE E-LEARNING: THE TELE-ESCOLA EXPERIENCE (PORTUGAL, 1965-1987)

Social context (Portugal, The Sixties)

- *Baby Boom*
- 1964: mandatory schooling goes from 4 to 6 years.
- Lack of teachers
- Lack of Schools

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DISTANCE LEARNING BEFORE E-LEARNING: THE TELE-ESCOLA EXPERIENCE (PORTUGAL, 1965-1987)

- *Baby Boom*
- (Portugal 1971-2001)

	TOTAL	0-04	05-09	10-14
1971	8.643.756	783.328	854.959	826.379
1980	9.766.275	810.120	857.030	852.420
1990	9.983.218	562.416	670.592	804.253
2000	10.289.898	549.825	555.230	580.024

Beginning of the Sixties – 200.000 child were born in Portugal each year
Right now – less the 90.000 children are born in Portugal each year

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The Tele-Escola

In order to solve the problem of facilities, the Ministry of Education ordered the installation of reception posts (in addition to the schools) in various places, such as parish centers, fire departments, village houses, parish councils, associations, etc.

Several monitors got formation in order to explain what the teachers said on the TV screen and work with the students.

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The Tele-Escola

Geographically speaking, The idea was to serve isolated rural and suburban areas with overcrowded schools.

At that time, there were about 1,000 students enrolled, but the entire population had access to the broadcasts that occupied part of the afternoon of RTP.

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The Tele-Escola

- The tele-escola, system of education, via television, started in Portugal on the 6th of October of 1964 / Januray of 1965.

- the programming was produced in the studios of the **“Portuguese Radio-Television”**, in Porto.

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The Tele-Escola

- The pupils were accompanied by monitors (usual 2)
- The intention was to allow them to get compulsory schooling

(at the time it was established for the 4 years of "Primary School" and 2 of "Preparatory Cycle".

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The Tele-Escola

In the early 1970s, the reform of education dictated the of compulsory schooling for 8 years.

In cases where it was not possible to provide direct teaching to students this could be replaced by Tele-Escola.

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The Tele-Escola

In the 1980s, with the arrival and popularization of video recorders, the Tele-Escola was no longer broadcast on television, thus freeing up these hours for other kind of programs.

The contents presented in the video-cassette were a complement of information provided by a tutor.

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The Tele-Escola

Already in the 1990's, the use of new technologies and multimedia has led to distance learning to function simultaneously as a complementary form of regular education and as an alternative kind of school education.

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The Tele-Escola

At this point, the system was already addressed, mainly to those who were not in normal school attendance.

In July 2003, it was announced that as of the 2003/2004 school year, EBM's schools would begin to be extinct (at that time they were about 320, dedicated to teaching the 5th and 6th grades).

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The Tele-Escola

In 2001/2002 there were about 5.200 students enrolled in EBM, with a success rate in the order of 90%.

Over the years, the Tele-Escola has changed its name from the initial “Curso Unificado de Tele-Escola” (Unified Course of Telescola), to “Ciclo Preparatório de TV” (Preparatory Cycle TV) and “Educação Básica Mediatizada” / EBM (Basic Mediatized Education).

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The Tele-Escola

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The Tele-Escola

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The Tele-Escola

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IN CONCLUSION

2 different concepts that interact...

1. Distance learning
2. E-learning.

Distance learning **is** e-learning.

BUT

E-learning does not have to be distance learning.

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E-learning can be everything... A total comprehensive learning.

BUT

Limitations exist:

1. Most PRATICAL ISSUES can not be achieved (Medical, f. e.).
2. TIME. Reading a book is different from reading its summary. A very good summary of the *Iliad* or the *Odyssey* that you can read in the internet is necessary different from reading the book for itself.

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Nothing can substitute the reading of a book. Reading is a personal experience.

We can prepare a lecture over Tolstoy's book *War and Peace* without reading the book. But the personal experience of reading the book with its benefits will be lost.

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BUT...

The understanding of a book can be complemented and enhanced by e-resources.

The *Iliad* or the *Odyssey*... Documentaries concerning the Aegean area / Geography, Google Maps; chronology; visiting museums; Linguistic information...

War and Peace... Documentaries concerning the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars; or the Story of Russia. Or the biography of Lev Tolstoy...

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[AGENDA] AT THE END OF THE TRAINING, PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO

- To offer a perspective about Electronic Learning, today.
- To present some distance learning experiences from the Past.
- To present and explain Portuguese experience on distant learning: Tele-Escola.
- To present some topics on distance learning / e-learning.
- To establish the advantages and the limitations to e-learning. E-learning, a complementary methodology.

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THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

ANY QUESTION, FEEDBACK, COMMENT?

FEEL FREE TO CONTACT

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