

Exhibit 5.3. The Pros and Cons of Using the Web for Learning.

Web Characteristic	Pro	Con
Accessing Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find information on almost any topic • Contact experts more easily • Get the latest information • Update and distribute information from one source • No inventory of (outdated) materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult for learners to make sense of huge mass of information from links and searches • Easy to get lost following links
Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chat, discussions, and e-mail make time and space less of a barrier • Learners become part of a community • Enhances organizational learning and organizational memory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactions are difficult to keep on track • Learners may not know how to behave (netiquette) or collaborate over a network
Role of Instructor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learners can become teachers by publishing their knowledge • Instructors can focus on helping learners collaborate with each other to make sense of information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructors may have a strong attachment to their role as “the font of knowledge” • Instructors may not know how to use the Web for learning
Use of Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only need one “player” — a Web browser — for most media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over-use of media • Most instructional development time spent on media production • Production value (glitz) more important than learning value
Ubiquitous Web	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web seems to be everywhere • Most learners will have some familiarity with Web 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web may not be part of everyday work • Access may not be possible when learning is most -needed (in the field or internationally)
Need for Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web tools (such as HTML) allow Web documents to be created once and played on a variety of hardware and software platforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools require considerable programming skill • Commercial tools contain proprietary elements that may not play on all platforms
Cost of Web Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the Web lowers the cost of maintenance, update, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development takes a team of (expensive) specialists: graphic

	distribution, inventory, travel and hardware	designers, programmers, media producers, and webmasters. • Web servers are expensive to purchase and maintain
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