A Treasure Hunt Activity to Encourage Competences Improvement: Indiana Jones and the Treasure Hunt.

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Abstract

This paper deals with the new pedagogical approaches that the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) demands in the university system. A treasure hunt is a teaching methodology applicable to this scenario. These activities are pedagogical strategies easy to design for teachers and useful in supporting the teaching-learning process of university students. The mentioned methodology consists of the design of a series of questions and a list of websites of which answers can be extracted. A “big question” might be included at the end and its answer won’t appear in the webs visited. Therefore, students need to integrate the knowledge acquired in the search process.

Treasure hunts are useful strategies to acquire information about a particular topic and develop abilities and procedures related to information technologies; they can be designed to help students acquire basic competence of comprehension, analysis and knowledge building. Besides concept learning a treasure hunt stimulates the acquisition of general competence on the use of information technologies, in particular, the competence to acquire the knowledge needed to be able to properly use ICT and locate, evaluate, and distinguish relevant information.

Civil Law is the area chosen to design our treasure hunt; in particular, the study in depth of some concepts related to the mentioned area, but from a Law and Economics point of view. The activity here presented links the economic theory to the analysis of laws and legal institutions in order to encourage interdisciplinary activities so important at today’s university programs.