



Introduction to Microsoft Sway as a Social Science Learning Media

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ABSTRACT

Education in social studies (IPS) has developed significantly in recent years. Technological breakthroughs have provided new opportunities to enhance the learning experience in these subjects. One interesting tool is Microsoft Sway, a digital presentation platform that offers flexibility and creativity in designing learning materials. This article is about the introduction of Microsoft Sway as a learning medium in Social Sciences (IPS) subjects. In this article the author will discuss the advantages, challenges, potential use and utilization of Microsoft Sway as a social studies learning medium. This approach will combine a literature review and practical guidance to illustrate the potential of Microsoft Sway in a social studies learning context.

INTRODUCTION

Changes in the industrial world highlight the HR skills needed for the needs of the business world. Technology-enabled businesses have also created new jobs that require a new set of skills (Hartati & Giovanni, 2022). According to the World Economic Forum in its Future of Jobs Reports (2016), there are 10 skills needed at least in 2020, namely; 1) Complex; 2) problem solving; 3) Critical thinking; 4) Creativity; 5) People management; 6) Coordinating with others; 7) Emotional intelligence; 8) Judgement and decision making; 9) Service orientation; 10) Negotiation; 11) Cognitive flexibility. This has strong relevance to the world of education as a provider of human resources in producing skills that are in line with the needs of the business world. The current education model is Education 4.0, which means an era where high-speed internet, mobile technology, social media platforms, etc. facilitating personalized learning anytime anywhere and changing the role of educators to facilitators and mentors. Education 4.0 is a key point in preparing human resources to be more ready to adapt to the needs of the business world (Supriatna & Karmudiandri, 2020).

Education is very important for every citizen. National Education System Law Number 20 of 2003 explains that education is a planned effort to create a learning process and learning atmosphere so that students can actively develop their potential in accordance with the goals and functions of national education (Awwaliyah & Baharun, 2019; Pristiwanti, et al., 2022). To realize national education goals, a curriculum has been developed that can be used as a reference in implementing the education process (Milasari & Setyasto, 2023).

Education in general plays an important role in creating superior Human Resources (HR) to face the challenges of increasingly sophisticated technological change. For this reason, a policy was created from Minister of Education and Culture Regulation Number 22 of 2016 concerning process standards covering basic education and secondary education, where the criteria for implementing learning in educational units are to achieve graduate competency standards. According to (Charismiadi, 2020). Minister of Education and Culture Regulation number 22 of 2016 also emphasizes standard learning process principles such as 1) Students must be able to find information, 2) Teachers as learning guides, 3) Content-based learning towards competency-based learning, 4) Learning that applies a learning process without differentiate between teachers and students. 5) Information and communication technology is very useful for making learning effective and efficient (Yurinda & Widyasari, 2022).

The existence of a teacher in the 21st century is required to be more professional. Teachers must be able to integrate information and communication technology into learning activities. Education that occurs in the 21st century requires teachers to be more professional, must not be blind to technology, and must be able to apply and adapt technology in learning (Purwanti, 2020).

One of the characteristics of 21st century society in the context of education is integrating ICT in learning. Information and communication technology is a tool for creating effective, efficient and enjoyable learning. In integrating ICT in learning, teachers should become facilitators, collaborators, mentors, coaches, directors and learning friends. Apart from that, teachers can give students great choice and responsibility for experiencing learning events (Jan, 2017).

The development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the last few decades has been very fast. One side of this development is a solution for the world of education at elementary, middle school, high school and tertiary level (PT) in accessing various information related to higher education development. However, on the other hand, this certainly requires the ability of teachers and lecturers to master the use of ICT to support the implementation of learning activities (Komariah, 2016).

TPACK (Technological Pedagogical Content Knowledge) can act as a learning framework that can help teachers think about how to increase knowledge by integrating technology into the learning process (Wardani & Jatmiko, 2021). One of the ICT-based learning media and to realize technology-based learning is to use Microsoft Sway as a learning media.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The use of Microsoft Office365 in learning activities can make it easier for teaching staff to collaborate and share learning documents, including making it easier to carry out online learning evaluations (Awaru, et al., 2021). Of the many platforms provided by Microsoft 365, one of them is Microsoft Sway.

Microsoft Sway or commonly called Sway is a new application from Microsoft Office that makes it easy for us to create and share reports, personal stories and interactive presentations, as well as many other things. Start by adding your own text and image collections or search and import relevant content from other sources. With Sway, we are no longer limited to choosing ready-made templates that make presentations look the same as everyone else's, nor do we have to have special design capabilities to change and display information in a modern, interactive and attractive way (Nursyaidha, 2023).

The advantages of Microsoft Sway include (1) it can be used as audio-visual and video media without having to download it, (2) the display can be designed according to the teacher's wishes to make it more attractive, (3) you can add attendance or questions using a Microsoft form in the form of a link, (4) teachers can monitor who is participating, (6) can help present material to be demonstrated to students easily (Afrianti, et al., 2022; Ardian et al., 2020).

Microsoft Sway is a digital presentation platform that allows users to create engaging and dynamic content (artal-Sevil, et al, 2018). With Sway, users can arrange text, images, video, graphics, and other multimedia resources in an

attractive and interactive display (Istiqomah, 2016; Artal-Seving, et al, 2018). This is a very versatile tool and can be used in a variety of learning contexts, including in social studies subjects.

Social Sciences (IPS) subjects are an integral part of the educational curriculum that helps students understand the world around them (Bashith & Amin, 2020). Learning in social studies covers topics such as history, geography, economics, politics, culture and society. In recent years, technological developments have opened up new opportunities in education, including social studies. One technology that is widely used is Microsoft Sway.

METHODOLOGY

Research methods are a series of scientific work procedures carried out systematically, directed and objectively in order to solve research problems. The series in question starts from when the research design begins to be prepared, data collection and analysis, report preparation to implications (Zaluchu, 2020). The method used in this research is a qualitative method because this research aims to provide information about Microsoft Sway.

RESEARCH RESULT

A. Microsoft 365/Office 365

Microsoft 365 (Office 365) collaboration of various software, namely Microsoft Office, Microsoft Sharepoint Online, Microsoft Exchange Online and Microsoft Lync Online which are always connected to cloud computing services or Cloud, which are connected at the same time together, but not all of which are connected via internet (Sudarmoyo, 2018). Microsoft 365 is the newest product from Microsoft. Microsoft 365 is a combination of Microsoft Office and several other Microsoft. And the difference with Microsoft is that users must be connected to the internet to use several features of Microsoft 365 (Ardian, et al., 2020).

Microsoft 365 Media: Sway contains material provided in the form of PowerPoint, short videos and reading materials. There is the effectiveness of Microsoft 365 media: influence on higher order thinking skills in online learning in the era of society 5.0. Online media used include YouTube, WhatsApp groups, Google Classroom, Quizzes, and Microsoft 365: Sway. Microsoft 365 media: sway can be used for offline and online learning (Larasati & Yuanta, 2021).

B. Microsoft Sway

Microsoft 365 also has a special feature that a teacher can use to create interactive learning media, namely the sway application. The Sway application is not software that must be installed on a PC or laptop but is a web-based application. This free app helps collect, format, and share our ideas, stories, and presentations on great-looking web-based interactive screens. With the new

Sway it's easy to add text, images, documents, videos, charts, or other types of content, and Sway will make it look great in just a few easy steps. (Sudarmoyo, 2018).

Sway is a product from Microsoft as a digital story telling application that can be used to create presentation materials, summaries and other interesting documents. Everyone can use sway app. Educators can create teaching materials, provide complete material for parents, provide tools for telling stories for students, and many other uses. Apart from that, students will gain new learning in completing school assignments, portfolios and even making class reports (Mujahidin, et al., 2021).

1. What is Microsoft Sway?

Microsoft Sway is a web-based application and not software that must be installed on a PC or laptop (Agustin, et al., 2021; Indriyani, et al., 2023). Microsoft Sway is a Microsoft Office product that has almost the same function as Microsoft Office PowerPoint (Monica, 2023). Microsoft Sway includes presentation tools that are created and displayed online in sway. On the sway.com page, a presentation design template is available that can be used, then the results of the presentation that has been created can be shared via a link (Ardian, et al., 2020).

Microsoft Office Sway is an application from Microsoft. It contains facilities that teachers and students can use for various activities such as: sharing reports, interactive presentations, and importing content from other sources. Everyone can view content created by Microsoft office sway users. When students learn using Sway media, students are more interested in listening and of course students' learning motivation will be maintained (Agustin, et al., 20121).

Sway is a cloud-based program in Microsoft 365. Sway is a new breakthrough from Microsoft which was released around 2014. Sway is not software that must be installed on a PC or laptop, but is a web-based application. The Sway app helps collect, format, share ideas, stories, and presentations on web-based interactive displays. With Sway it's easy to add text, images, documents, videos, charts, or other types of content, and Sway will make it look great in just a few easy steps. Sway is very suitable for business people, students and college students who will make reports, resumes, presentations, as well as teachers to make learning material more enjoyable. No need to install, no need to be afraid that data will be lost because the laptop is damaged because the data will be stored on the sway.com server (Sudarmoyo, 2018).

This office sway application is basically very interesting because it has accessibility features that can help provide learning content that can reach more people. With Office Sway, users can create reports, presentations and can also create interactive modules. What's more interesting is that Office Sway can provide and insert content in the form of text, images, animations in the form of videos that can attract students' interest in learning. This is so that students do

not feel bored and fed up during learning (Sari, et al., 2022). Office sway itself is an interactive and modern learning media because it can insert text or writing, images and animation, video and sound (Waskitorini & Arifendi, 2022).

Microsoft Sway is an online media that is practical and easy to use. Sway can be accessed from various devices such as smartphones, tablets, laptops or computers when connected to the internet, so you can use Sway without being limited by time and space. Sway can also create and display interesting content (Budi, 2022)

Sway is free to use for anyone with a Microsoft Account (Hotmail, Live, or Outlook.com). We can create more engaging Sways with more content if Sway is part of a Microsoft 365 subscription. With Sway, we don't have to spend a lot of time on formatting. The built-in design engine will help perfect our creations. If the initial design doesn't suit your taste or mood, you can easily apply another design or completely change the layout to your liking (Microsoft.com).

We can also change the privacy settings for all Sways if we want more control over what we share (Reba & Pristanti, 2021; Nursyaidha, 2023). And of the many applications offered by Microsoft 365, the advantage that I really feel by having an innovative teacher account is the very large storage, namely 5120 Gigabytes (GB) or around 5 Terabytes (TB).

2. What can we create with Sway?

Sway can be used to create reports, presentations, newsletters, personal stories, photo albums, or visual travel reports.

3. Advantages, Disadvantages, and Challenges in Using Microsoft Sway

a) Advantages and Convenience of Microsoft Sway

- 1) Sway contains interactive content because it can add interactive elements such as videos, moving images, graphics, and hyperlinks to enhance the audience's experience.
- 2) Microsoft Sway does not need to be installed on a computer or laptop, because it is web-based software.
- 3) By using Sway we don't need to worry about losing stored data if the software is damaged because it is already stored on OneDrive.
- 4) OneDrive has a larger storage capacity compared to storage on Google Drive.
- 5) Sway allows teachers to present learning material in a more engaging and creative way than traditional presentations.
- 6) Sway can be easily shared with students via link, email, or online learning platform. This allows students to easily access materials across multiple devices whenever they need them.
- 7) Microsoft Sway is easy to use, even for beginners who have no experience in graphic design or presentations.

- 8) Sway integrates with Microsoft 365 services, such as OneDrive, PowerPoint, and SharePoint, making it easy to share and manage content.
- 9) Sway is free to use, and its paid version (Microsoft 365) offers more features and customization options.
- 10) Can collaborate with others in creating Sways, making it easier to develop team presentations. Teachers and students can collaborate on creating Sway content. This opens up opportunities for project-based learning and collaborative skill development.
- 11) Presentations created with Sway automatically adapt to the device your audience is using, so they look good across devices.

b) Disadvantages of Microsoft Sway

Because Sway is a web-based application, it is very dependent on an internet connection.

c) Challenges in Using Microsoft Sway

- 1) Because not all students have access to the necessary devices, this can be an obstacle in using Sway as a learning medium.
 - 2) Creating quality Sway content requires time and skill so teachers need to deliberately take the time to master it.
 - 3) A slow internet connection or an outdated device can hinder using sway.
4. Potential Use of Microsoft Sway in Social Studies Learning
- a. In history learning, Sway can be used to create interactive media that includes images, videos, and various historical perspectives.
 - b. Geography courses can be enhanced with the use of interactive maps, satellite images, and other geographic data in Sway.
 - c. In economics lessons, Sway allows presenting economic data in the form of charts and graphs that are easier to understand.
 - d. Using Sway in political and social learning can involve students in researching contemporary topics and conveying information through interesting presentations.

5. A Practical Guide for Teachers

For teachers who are interested in utilizing Microsoft Sway in social studies learning, here are some practical guides:

- a. Teachers need to develop learning content that will be delivered via Sway. This includes designing text, collecting images, videos and other multimedia resources.
- b. Teachers need to get to know the Sway platform by learning its features and how to create attractive presentations.
- c. Teachers need to teach students how to use Sway. This can involve a short tutorial or hands-on practice.

- d. Teachers should gather feedback from students about their learning experiences with Sway. This can help increase platform usage.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Microsoft Sway or Sway is a product from Microsoft 365 that can be used as an interactive learning medium. Microsoft 365 has various applications with the bonus of a free cloud storage capacity of 1 TB for email attachments, files and photos on OneDrive. Meanwhile, by having an innovative teacher account, you get a storage bonus of up to 5 Terabytes. By having a Microsoft account that can be used for all Microsoft 365 applications including Microsoft Sway

ADVANCED RESEARCH

Because the author has shortcomings and limitations in conducting research which is only limited to reviewing literature related to Microsoft Sway with the theme Introduction to Sway as a learning media, what must be considered is the availability of an internet network to access it. This research can be used as reference material for conducting more in-depth research about Microsoft Sway and its benefits and uses.

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