

Ohio University
College of Education
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DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

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Quality Software: An Analysis Using Gagne's Nine Events of Instruction

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The study examines to what extent Gagne's Nine Events of Instruction (GNEI) are incorporated in quality instructional software packages. The subjects were 25 courseware selected from Neill and Neill annual publications: Only the Best: the Annual Guide to Highest-Rated Educational Software. The 25 quality courseware were categorized into four types: Drill & practice, Tutorial, Simulation, and Application, and evaluated by 50 Ohio University students and the author. The evaluation form, developed by the author, was used as a measure of the courseware quality according to GNEI. Therefore, the dependent variables were Gagne's Nine Events of Instruction.

The test of profile analysis for both evaluations, conducted by both the OU students and the author, found the profiles were parallel (having no type interaction), having different type did not score the same on each event of instruction. The findings led to the rejection of Null hypothesis, concluding that GNEI are not incorporated, in quality courseware, to the same extent. The two evaluations, conducted by the OU students and the author, differed in determining the importance of incorporating each Event in every quality courseware regardless of its type. The findings of both evaluations agreed on the importance of incorporating Event 6 (Eliciting Performance) in each quality courseware regardless of the two evaluations suggests incorporating Event 1 (Gaining Attention), Event 6 (Eliciting Performance), Event 7 (Providing Feedback), and Event 9 (Enhancing Retention and Transfer) in each quality instructional software regardless of its type. The study suggests that GNEI should be considered when selecting and evaluating instructional software packages, revising the design of existing courseware in the light of GNEI, considering GNEI when developing new instructional software packages, and considering the type of courseware when developing or evaluating instructional software packages in the light of GNEI.