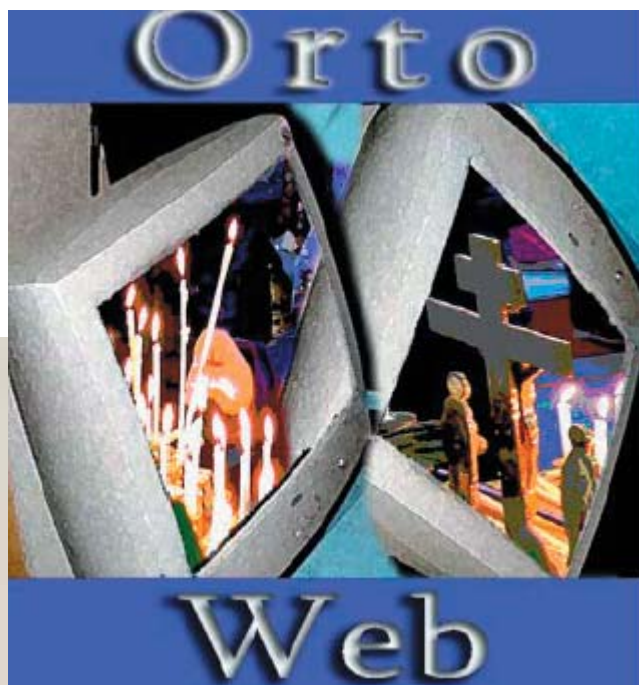


Portal for
Orthodox Religious
Education over Internet



UNIVERSITY OF
JOENSUU

DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED
EDUCATION

DEVELOPMENT CEN-
TER FOR INFORMATION
TECNOLOGY IN EDUCA-
TION (TOTY)

Description

The portal OrtoWeb has started as a project called Ort+Edu (Orthodoxy and Education) in co-operation with the Municipality of Liperi and its school authorities in North Carelia, Finland in 1998-2001. The aim of the project was to develop an ICT based learning environment with Orthodox religion (O.R) web-material to support teaching of O.R mainly in comprehensive education. Along with this project the teaching of O.R has become more versatile and updated in terms of pedagogical means and teaching contents and materials. Other benefit is that via the portal there is a prospect to increase communication between the Religion teachers which are, because of the minority position of Orthodoxy in Finland (1% of the population), wide spread in different parts of the country. In addition Web-based material is easy accessible also for other school subjects or other and general purposes.

Today the OrtoWeb serves department's needs for ICT training environments and ICT pedagogical applications in teacher training and has started as a portal for R.E teacher trainers in Finnish universities and Baltic area since Autumn 2003.

WHAT IS THE OrtoWeb?

The OrtoWeb is a portal for Orthodox religion instruction and orthodox information in general in Finland. It is conducted (contents) by Department of Applied Education and (technical implementation) by Research and Development Center for Information Technology in Education (TOTY).

The OrtoWeb serves as an interactive media and makes possible to learn virtually about Orthodoxy. The purpose is to act at a national as well as at an international level for school environments in collaboration with partners interested in this topic.

Aims of OrtoWeb - portal

1. To offer auditive and visual cultural heritage of Orthodox church in digital form.
2. To create an Internet learning environment with web-material suitable for teaching.
3. To study and research teaching with the new learning environment and web-material.
4. To collect feedback from teaching experiences with the new media in order to form new pedagogical knowledge.
5. To apply the new pedagogical knowledge in every day practice.
6. To add pedagogical use of the Internet.
7. To involve teachers of Orthodox religion in co-operation with each other.
8. To utilize the portal for R.E in international Orthodox contexts

Target Groups of OrtoWeb

1. Teachers of Orthodox religion in primary, secondary and higher secondary schools.
2. Students of Orthodox religion in primary, secondary and upper secondary schools.
3. Students of Joensuu University, who are studying to become teachers in Orthodox religion.
4. Teachers and students in general of primary, secondary and upper secondary schools.

Coordination and Control

For the moment OrtoWeb is maintained by the personality of Department of Applied Education and Research and Development Center for Information Technology in Education (TOTY). OrtoWeb has been as a target for research by SITES (Second Information Technology in Education Study). It is an international research project with seven cases from Finland accomplished by International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (<http://www.iea.nl>).

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