# ABSTRACTS

## EXPERIENCE OF USING COMPUTER NETWORKS IN K-12 SCHOOLING IN THE USA

This paper addresses the problem of reforming the system of education and meeting the needs of today's learners and the technological advances, which offer wider opportunities to increase the learning results. The paper also examines the place of computer network in the system of learning environment. It views the computer networks as an educational medium to transfer textual information in a two-sided way between the teachers and learners, and between learners, notwithstanding their location or time of online connection. The study aims at analyzing the experience of using the computer networks in the K-12 system in the USA. It examines the major forms of learning activities and research projects to get students involved. The advantages of the networks to increase higher learn- ing results are discussed. The findings show that computer networks are an efficient educational medium that facilitates collaborative learning and makes learners get involved in the research projects. This educational medium has no time or location barriers unlike a traditional classroom environment. As well as this, students approach global scientific problems and get in contact with real experts on- line. Besides, by way of participating in a group research via the computer network, students acquire writing skills, skills of expressing their thoughts clearly, as well as get more responsible and aware of the research outcomes. The paper offers practical implications as to introducing the computer net- works in the system of secondary and higher education of Ukraine by way of increasing the technical capacity of educational establishments and developing the methodological approach to organizing and controlling distance learning via computer networks.

*Key words: computer-based learning technologies, computer network, two-way system of information exchange, learning environment, educational medium.*