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**Title**

Virtual teaching on the basis of experiments in computer-assisted instruction at the University of Mining and Metallurgy of Cracow

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**Abstract**

Experiments with virtual instruction systems undertaken at the University of Mining and Metallurgy of Cracow are described, particularly the preparation of computer-assisted teaching materials and their on-line distribution. Successfully dealing with the latter requires an answer to the fundamental question: what is the role of the Internet in education--to assist or to replace the instructor? An attempt is made to answer the question on the basis of an analysis of the properties and features of both the human teacher and the computer. A proposed conceptual model for the optimal distribution of educational tasks between human instructors and ICT facilities postulates that human teachers are needed to help students transform the detailed and varied information obtained via the Internet into knowledge and wisdom. Other areas explored are those of electronic publication, Internet access to university library resources, and the educational qualities of the global computer

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network. The main conclusion is that however much information technology may be a useful teaching aid, the human teacher is the most important role player in the whole area of virtual teaching technology. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)