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INTRODUCTION

This Proceedings comprises papers from the **International conference on Information technology and development of education** that is held in the "Vojvodina" Hotel in Zrenjanin on June 29th 2012.

The International conference on Information technology and development of education has had a goal to contribute to the development of education in Serbia and in the region, as well as, to gather experts in natural and technical sciences' teaching fields.

The expected scientific-skilled analysis of the accomplishment in the field of the contemporary information and communication technologies, as well as analysis of state, needs and tendencies in education all around the world and in our country have been realized.

The authors and the participants of the Conference have dealt with the following thematic areas:

- Theoretic and methodology questions of contemporary pedagogy
- Personalization and learning styles
- Social networks and their influence on education
- Children security and safety on the Internet
- Curriculum of contemporary teaching
- Methodic questions of natural and technical sciences subject teaching
- Lifelong learning and teachers' professional training
- E-learning
- Education management
- Development and influence of IT on teaching
- Information communication infrastructure in teaching process

All submitted papers have been reviewed at least two independent members of the Science Committee.

The papers presented on the Conference and published in this Proceedings can be useful for teacher while learning and teaching in the fields of informatics, technics and other teaching subjects and activities. Contribution to science and teaching development in this region and wider has been achieved in this way.

The Organizing Committee of the Conference

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ANALYSIS OF THE USE OF THE INTERNET AMONG SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

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Abstract - The paper presents the results of the research on the use of the Internet in Serbia conducted among pupils in primary and secondary schools. The usage characteristics, the effects and provided possibilities, as well as suggestions for improving the teaching process have been clearly established. At the same time, the paper presents a comparative analysis of the Internet with other IT fields in primary school curriculum. The forthcoming paper pertains to the segment that covers the analysis of the Internet in secondary schools and includes a continued research to determine the effects of the use of social networks in the teaching process.

I. INTRODUCTION

The use of computers and the Internet is integrated into nearly all facets of daily life and provides the necessary information about all areas of life. Children are part of this new system, using the Internet as a learning aid and developing skills through the use of computers. Considering the advantages of the Internet in learning, the increasing use of the Internet by children is evident both in school curriculums and in extracurricular activities.

Regardless of the increasing use of the Internet by children, there is still an insufficient number of definitive research results dealing with the effects of such use [1]. This question is in correlation with the temporal dimension, as well as "geography" i.e. the local environment in which the best solutions are reached (the state, the school administration, the region, the municipality, the school, the family, the individuals etc. [2]).

TABLE 1. INTERNET ACCESS IN SCHOOLS (SERBIA - UNITED KINGDOM)

	2000 (%)		2004 (%)	
	Primary	Second.	Primary	Second.
UK (EU)	86	98	99	99
Serbia (Valjevo)	2	20	43	82

This study was supported by the Serbian Ministry of Education and Science (Project III 44006,
<http://www.mi.sanu.ac.rs/projects/projects.htm#interdisciplinary>).

The use of the Internet in Serbian schools in recent years was lagging behind in comparison with the developed countries of EU, [2]. Table 1 presents an extract from a comparative overview of schools with Internet access, given in percentages (United Kingdom – Serbia, the illustration is based on the example of the school administration of Valjevo which comprises 100 schools, 72 of which are primary schools and 28 secondary schools).

In this paper, the use of the Internet among children of school age is analyzed with regard to the following effects it produces:

- Educational: with the primary aim of improving teaching, the learning models and the knowledge and skills, as well as providing opportunities for better training of teachers and students, etc.
- Social: The use of the Internet should not affect a child's social life, which is exactly what comes to the foreground in the research results.
- Health: The time that children spend at a computer should be carefully balanced with the physical activities they should take.
- Familial: The need for guidance and support, as well as responsibility for behavior on the Internet of every individual in a family community.

The focus of this paper, as well as previous ones [3], is on the educational elements and the place of the Internet in the teaching process. There are many levels ranging from the state to the individual, which is why this path is cut short in the paper: from the state level to the level of individuals in the system of education.

There are a number papers which deal with some of these effects and which analyse the effects of the Internet on the users of school age. The

