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Asynchronous Platform Mediated by Intelligent Conversational Agents for Enhancing Digital Connectivity

[Ubiquitous Learning](#) • Article • 2024 • DOI: 10.18848/1835-9795/CGP/v17i02/223-243

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Abstract

The research focused on the implementation of a platform for the improvement of digital connectivity mediated by intelligent conversational agents. The research sought to mitigate aspects related to the technological gap, which became more evident with the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, exposing the deficiencies of internet connectivity in some countries. In some regions of Latin America, in particular, there is a lack of internet access. Therefore, the implementation of a platform was proposed in which technologies converge to optimize the use of internet resources, integrating didactic and pedagogical aspects, generating an added value with the incorporation of an intelligent conversational agent as a means of effective communication between students and teachers. In the technological aspects, a focused mapping was carried out to identify the appropriate technologies to implement the platform. In terms of didactics, we worked with the ASSURE instructional design employing a cognitivist approach. Methodologically, a mixed-research approach was carried out; with the application of perception surveys to teachers and students belonging to secondary education institutions in Colombia, the validation of the platform was carried out through the expert judgment technique. The results show that the asynchronous platform mediated by intelligent conversational agents was positively evaluated by students and teachers. In terms of technology, the experts rated the aspects that integrate it with 87 percent; in terms of didactics and pedagogy, the

Author keywords

Asynchronous; Communication; Digital Connectivity; Intelligent Conversational Agents; Platform

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[Back](#)

Examining the Mediating Effect of the Rural Economic Dynamization between the Socio-Environmental Heritage and Sustainability of Protected Areas

[Sustainability \(Switzerland\)](#) • Article • [Open Access](#) • 2024 • DOI: 10.3390/su16156525

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Abstract

This study examines the mediating effect of rural economic dynamization between socio-environmental heritage and the sustainability of protected areas in the buffer zone of the Serranía de las Quinchas Regional Natural Park, located in the municipality of Otanche, Boyacá Department, Colombia. The study population includes families that are part of the productive units in this area. The methodological approach of this study is based on partial least squares structural equation modeling. The working unit was established in the regional protected areas of Colombia, specifically in the Serranía de las Quinchas Regional Natural Park. A sample of 172 participants was selected using a non-probabilistic intentional sampling method, covering academics, company representatives, social leaders, local authorities, and representatives of non-governmental organizations. The study variables were measured using a scale with satisfactory psychometric properties, which included 12 items for socio-environmental heritage, 17 items for rural economic dynamization, and 11 items for the sustainability of protected areas. These were structured into subcategories based on the ecosystem services approach (factors that demonstrate social and economic dynamics). Responses were collected using a five-point Likert scale. The sample was analyzed using SmartPLS 3.3.3 software, applying a reflective–reflective hierarchical component model to evaluate the first- and second-order relationships among the variables. The results demonstrate the importance of socio-environmental

heritage for local communities as a strategic component that facilitates the rural economic dynamization of protected areas based on sustainability. This research contributes to understanding the relationship between socio-environmental heritage and the sustainability of protected areas, mediated by rural economic dynamization, highlighting the relevance of in situ conservation strategies and prospective planning of these territories to implement sustainability dynamics. It is concluded that rural economic dynamization acts as a significant mediator in the relationship between socio-environmental heritage and the sustainability of protected areas, emphasizing the need to integrate these dynamics into the management of natural resources and the promotion of sustainable development in rural communities. © 2024 by the authors.

Author keywords

PLS-SEM; rural economic dynamization; socio-environmental heritage; sustainability of protected areas

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buffer zone; conservation planning; natural resource; nature conservation; protected area; resource management; rural economy; sustainability; sustainable development

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Examining the Mediating Dynamization between the Heritage and Sustainability

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[Back](#)

Experimental analysis of failure behaviour of PA12 specimens manufactured by SLS as a function of wall thickness and build direction

[Rapid Prototyping Journal](#) • Article • 2024 • DOI: 10.1108/RPJ-01-2024-0038

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Abstract

Purpose: This paper aims to investigate and explain the dual fracture behaviour of PA12 specimens sintered by selective laser sintering (SLS) as a function of wall thickness and build direction with a powder mixture 30:70. To achieve this objective, research related to chemical, thermal and structural behaviours as a function of the input variables was carried out to describe and explain why ductile-fragile behaviour occurs during fractures under uniaxial tension manufactured via a methodology of material analysis and manufacturing processes.

Design/methodology/approach: The factorial design 32 relates the fracture of PA12 tensile specimens to the horizontal, transverse and vertical build directions at 2.0, 2.5 and 3.0 mm thicknesses, respectively. Fractographic images revealed the fracture surfaces and their dual ductile-fragile behaviour related to the specimens' measured crystalline, thermal, surface and chemical properties. **Findings:** The study showed that thermal property variables differ depending on the input variables. The wall thickness variable affected this morphology the most, showing the highest percentage of the ductile area, followed by the transverse and vertical directions. It was determined that the

failure in the vertical direction is due to crystalline gradients associated with the layer-by-layer construction process. The pore density may be closely related to generating ductile and brittle areas. Originality/value: In this paper, fracture characterisation is performed based on the mechanical, chemical, structural, thermal and morphological properties of PA12 manufactured by SLS. In addition, a heatmap of porosities in cross-sections is constructed using a machine learning model (k-means) related to dual fracture behaviour. This research revealed significant differences in the fracture type according to the build direction. In addition, thin-section fractography provides a more detailed explanation of the fragile behaviour of the vertical direction associated with crystalline changes due to the direction of the sintering layers. © 2024, Emerald Publishing Limited.

Author keywords

70 recycled; Additive manufacturing; Build direction; Dual brittle-ductile fracture; Mixture 30 virgin; Polyamide 12; Selective laser sintering; Wall thickness

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Additives; Brittle fracture; Ductile fracture; Fracture mechanics; Industrial research; Laser heating; Morphology; Sintering

Engineering uncontrolled terms

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Experimental analysis of f specimens manufactured thickness and build direct

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Abstract

Purpose: This paper aims to investigate and explain selective laser sintering (SLS) as a function of wall thickness. To achieve this objective, research related to chemical, physical variables was carried out to describe and explain what happens when uniaxial tension manufactured via a methodology of Design/methodology/approach: The factorial design was used. The horizontal, transverse and vertical build directions are analyzed. Images revealed the fracture surfaces and their dual crystalline, thermal, surface and chemical properties. Results: Images differ depending on the input variables. The wall thickness with the highest percentage of the ductile area, followed by the

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