FEATURES OF IMPLEMENTATION AND SELECTION OF DISTANCE LEARNING PLATFORM

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The rapid development of digital technologies and the expansion of the global network have contributed to the active implementation of distance learning, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the main advantages of distance learning are flexibility in time planning, the ability to study from any place and on any device, adaptation of the educational process to the individual needs of the student, as well as access to courses from leading world universities. However, this format is also accompanied by certain challenges: a decrease in the level of socialization, the need for a high level of self-discipline, and technical difficulties. Distance learning is also transforming teaching activities. On the one hand, it opens up new opportunities: teaching to a wide audience, the use of video lectures, and automation of assessment. On the other hand, it requires additional training for teachers, resources for creating high-quality content, and overcoming technical barriers.

The distance education format involves the use of specialized platforms that provide a structured environment for presenting educational content. The market offers a large number of distance learning platforms (DLPs) with similar functionality, so the task of choosing the optimal DLP is relevant. There are many different stakeholders of the educational process: students, teachers and the administration of the educational institution. They form a list of requirements for the educational platform (Figure 1).
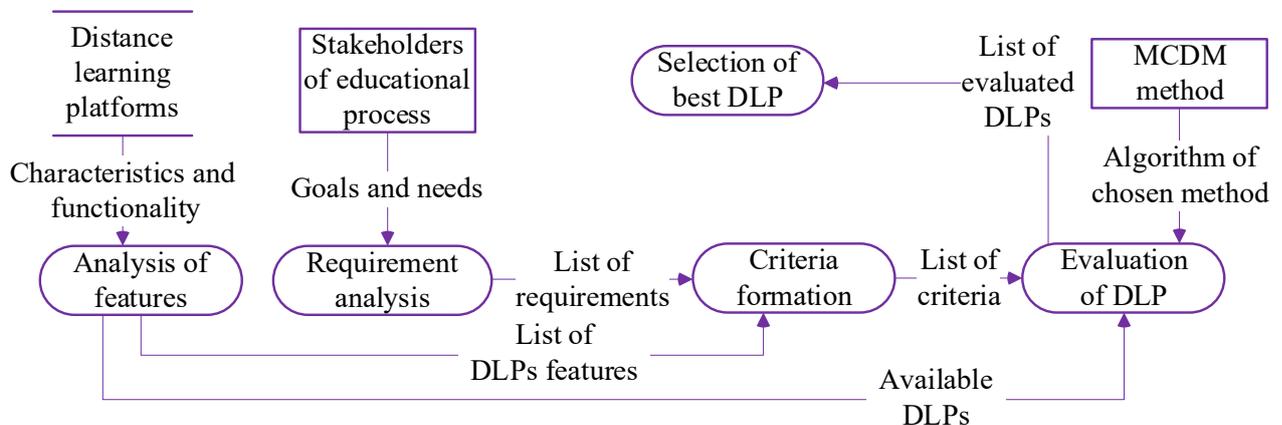

Figure 1 – Data flow diagram of selection process of DLP

Based on the list of requirements and the available functionality of the considered DLP, a list of criteria is formed. The criteria may have different optimization directions. Then, to solve the problem of choosing the optimal DLP, it is necessary to use multi-criteria decision-making (MCDM) methods. Therefore, the choice of an optimal DLP should be carried out comprehensively, taking into account the needs of all stakeholders in the educational process.