4. Conclusions and discussion

The results obtained demonstrate that Spanish universities are moving towards a new collaborative learning paradigm. Mobile phones are one of the new types of hardware enabling this kind of learning to take place. However, mobile phones do not provide students with new knowledge. The academic use of mobile phones equips users with new skills with which they can increase their opportunities to acquire knowledge if they have a handset that makes this possible to happen. Non-smartphones reproduce the paradigm of analogue learning. They are a not very effective complementary learning tool. They do not enable ubiquitous learning because of their lack of access to the Internet. Smartphones are the immediate present and future of ubiquitous learning. Their definition, academically speaking, needs to be revisited. A smartphone is not only a telephone that functions like a portable computer. On the contrary, a smartphone used for educational purposes has become a portable computer that can be used as a telephone. Perhaps the use of smartphones as telephones is now secondary to their functionality.

References


