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Technology enhanced learning in the creative arts and humanities

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Aims and objectives
To identify knowledge gaps in digital literacy within creative arts and humanities and establish suitable strategies to close them.

1. Analyse the level and type of e-learning opportunities provided across a range of undergraduate courses in creative arts and humanities.
2. Identify examples of good practice in relation to blending technology to enhance teaching and learning within the VLE.
3. Develop, implement and evaluate a strategy to support technology enhanced blended learning in creative arts and humanities.

Methodology
An action research approach will be used within the project.

1. The first step will consist of three phases.
   a) The first phase will quantify the current use of the VLE across a selection of courses within creative arts and humanities. This will be achieved through structured content analysis of the 2011-2012 VLE archive.
   b) The second phase will be to distribute an online questionnaire to all staff within creative arts to determine current and predicted use of E and M learning tools and training needs.
   c) The final phase will identify examples of good practice in relation to embedding E and M technology into the VLE, and establish knowledge gaps in relation to engagement and usage. Focus groups will be conducted to explore the wider themes and to establish mechanisms for embedding and enhancing e-learning. This gap analysis strategy will be implemented during the Autumn term 2013.

2. The second step of the action research will evaluate, compare and reflect on the implemented action in terms of improvement in digital literacy in creative arts and humanities.

Pre-Phase

- Investigating prior work
  - Literature review institutional blockages
  - Literature review auditing VLE
  - Survey to STLC chairs and LTA

Phase 1 [Aim 1]

- Analysis level & type of e-learning
  - Content analysis of Unilearn module areas
  - Staff questionnaire for academic staff
  - Conclude findings

Phase 2 [Aim 2]

- Explore predicted use of E/M learning tools
  - Staff questionnaire
  - Identify sample for focus group from Unilearn findings
  - Draft questionnaire for academic staff
  - Conclude findings

Phase 3 [Aim 2]

- Identify examples of good practice E/M learning
  - Focus groups
  - Analyse staff questionnaires
  - Evaluate findings

Phase 4 [Aim 3]

- Develop a strategy to close gaps
  - Action research planning stage
  - Develop resources
  - Devise training
  - Disseminate good practice

Phase 5 [Aim 3]

- Implement and evaluate strategy
  - Action research: first action cycle

Reference List

Evans, C. (2008) The Effectiveness of m-learning in the form of podcast revision lectures in higher education, Sciences Direct, 50 pp.491-498

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