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An Exploration of Institutional Blockages in Relation to the Use and Development of the VLE

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Background of the project

- Large investments in VLE
- Digital literacy is a challenge
- Institutional blockages (2005)
- VLE – technical solution
- Debate regarding technology enhanced learning
- Understanding technical choices

What do we know?

- Technology alone does not enhance learning
- Blended learning: traditional/e-learning
- Transforms the learning experience
- Technical skill / curriculum development / enhancing student experience
- Student expectations “anywhere anytime”
- Technology that is ubiquitous

Project Aim and Methodology

Identify knowledge gaps in digital literacy within creative arts & humanities & establish suitable strategies to close them.

Preliminary Investigation

- To explore institutional blockages in relation to the use and development of the VLE.
  - current practice
  - aspirations
- 14 questions to each school
- Provide a potential framework for a centralised procedure of collecting data regarding the development of the VLE and digital literacy.

Findings: Preliminary Investigation

- Over ½ of the schools collected some data regarding VLE contents
- No standard process
- Unclear how data links to strategy
- Suggestion that this may impact on staff buy-in
- Data on digital literacy varies across the schools
- Sound pedagogical reasons for min compliance
- Limited responses - DL enhancing learning
- Aspirations – consistency / effective use
Auditing the VLE

• Most UK institutions have developed digital literacy policies and guidelines.
  – Framework to promote digital literacy
  – Minimum compliance
  – Staff self-evaluation to encourage on-line provision
• Criteria for auditing VLE is limited – literature
• Gap in how audit data feeds into
  – Institutional strategy
  – Enhanced student learning
  – Pedagogical good practice
  – Technical development / Innovation

Summary

• Standardisation
• A culture change is required to make meaningful use of the data.
• Need to use audit data to develop/inform T&L strategy.
• Impact of staff digital literacy unclear in terms of student learning.
• In certain high practical based subjects minimum use of the VLE may be best practice.

What Now?

Identify knowledge gaps in digital literacy within creative arts & humanities & establish suitable strategies to close them.
• Analyse the type and level of e-learning in the VLE
• Identify good practice
• Develop, implement strategies to support e-learning in creative arts
• Provide a potential framework for a centralised procedure of collecting data regarding the development of the VLE and digital literacy.