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Creating Learning Communities: Three Open Source Tools

Dr Amanda Tinker, Christine Cattermole and Gillian Byrne
LDHEN Symposium
6-7 April 2009
Introduction

- Trends
- Overview of the technology
  - Del.icio.us, PBwiki,
  - Ning
- Pedagogic issues
- Evaluation

Exploring the technology
Group discussion
Great expectations of ICT

75% Recognised value for enhanced learning

25% Encouraged by academics

Social networking tools

Why Delicious?

Each AST 2007

User friendly – most well-known

Links to existing materials/websites

Unified/interlinked

Share resources
Use of Delicious

- Tutorial
- Email enquiries
- Induction
- Taught sessions
Why (and which) Wiki?

Collaborative Writing/Research

PBwiki (www.pbwiki.com) “As Easy as a Peanut Butter Sandwich”!

Teamwork Learning ‘Need’

Multimedia Structured

Password protected Integrated

Link from VLE
Example

Art and Design
Wiki – Concluding Thoughts

"The wiki was a very useful tool to consolidate our group work."

Appeal
Collaborative research
Communication - email/text
Learning curve
Monitor team performance
Peer Learning
Organisational skills
Social Networking

Why Ning?

Plagiarism project

Academic Matters

Pilot

Bridging Course

Engagement

Web 2.0 technologies

Harness enthusiasm
‘It was good and different trying out the new technology; it broke the day up well.’

‘It was attracting my attention to keep working and not to be bored.’