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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?

User friendly – most well-known

Links to existing materials/websites

Each AST 2007

Unified/interlinked

Share resources
Use of Delicious

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

Collaborative Writing/Research

Teamwork

Learning ‘Need’

Multimedia

Structured

Integrated

Password protected

Link from VLE

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

Art and Design
Wiki – Concluding Thoughts

Appeal

Collaborative research

“\textit{The wiki was a very useful tool to consolidate our group work}“

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
Ning: Student Evaluation

‘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.’