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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

Teamwork

Learning ‘Need’

Multimedia

Structured

PBwiki (www.pbwiki.com)

“As Easy as a Peanut Butter Sandwich”!

Password protected

Integrated

Link from VLE

Integrated Learning ‘Need’
Example

Art and Design
“The wiki was a very useful tool to consolidate our group work.”

Wiki – Concluding Thoughts

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

Learning curve

Organisational skills

Peer Learning

Communication - email/text

Monitor team performance

Collaborative research

Appeal
Social Networking

Why Ning?

Harness enthusiasm

Plagiarism project

Academic Matters

Pilot

Bridging Course

Engagement

Web 2.0 technologies
‘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.’
Workshop
Tasks
Explore
Discuss
Post