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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

Social networking tools

25%
Encouraged by academics

Why Delicious?

- Each AST 2007
- User friendly – most well-known
- Unified/interlinked
- Links to existing materials/websites
- Share resources
Use of Delicious

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

Collaborative Writing/Research

Teamwork

Learning ‘Need’

Multimedia

Password protected

Structured

Integrated

Link from VLE

PBwiki (www.pbwiki.com)

“As Easy as a Peanut Butter Sandwich”!
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
- Peer Learning
Social Networking

Why Ning?

Harness enthusiasm

Plagiarism project

Academic Matters

Pilot

Bridging Course

Engagement

Web 2.0 technologies
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.’