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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?

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

Collaborative Writing/Research
Teamwork
Learning ‘Need’
Multimedia
Structured
Integrated
Password protected
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
Learning curve
Communication - email/text
Peer Learning
Monitor team performance
Organisational skills

Learning curve
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.’