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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

PBwiki (www.pbwiki.com)

As Easy as a Peanut Butter Sandwich!

Multimedia

Learning ‘Need’

Password protected

Structured

Integrated

Link from VLE
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
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.’