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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

Links to existing  
materials/  
websites

**User friendly – most well-known**

**Unified/  
interlinked**

**Share  
resources**





# Use of Delicious

- Tutorial
  - Email enquiries
  - Induction
  - Taught sessions
- 
- A large, messy pile of chocolate cake with white frosting and chocolate shavings, symbolizing the 'Use of Delicious'.



# Why (and which) Wiki?

**Collaborative  
Writing/Research**

**Teamwork  
Learning 'Need'**

**PBwiki ([www.pbwiki.com](http://www.pbwiki.com))**

***"As Easy as a Peanut Butter  
Sandwich"!***

**Multimedia**

**Structured**

**Password  
protected**

**Integrated**

**Link  
from  
VLE**



# Example



Art and Design

# Wiki – Concluding Thoughts

A hand is visible in the bottom left corner, holding a wooden pole that supports a checkered flag. The flag is black and white, with a pattern of squares. The background is a clear, light blue sky. The flag is positioned diagonally across the frame, from the bottom left towards the top right.

**Appeal**

**Collaborative  
research**

*“The wiki was a very useful tool  
to consolidate our group work”*

**Learning  
curve**

**Communication -  
email/text**

**Peer Learning**

**Monitor team  
performance**

**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.'***





# Workshop Tasks

Explore

Discuss

Post