University of Huddersfield Repository

Folley, Susan and Ellis, Cath

Harnessing the Power of Distributed Learning: the potential benefits for Higher Education in the United Kingdom

Original Citation

Folley, Susan and Ellis, Cath (2008) Harnessing the Power of Distributed Learning: the potential benefits for Higher Education in the United Kingdom. In: Solstice Conference 2008: elearning and learning environments for the future, 5th June 2008, Edge Hill University, Ormskirk, UK. (Unpublished)

This version is available at http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/7165/

http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/

SOLSTICE
Conference 2008

Edge Hill University

Harnessing the Power of Distributed Learning:

the Potential Benefits for Higher Education in the United Kingdom.

Sue Folley

Learning Designer/Developer & Project Manager

University of Huddersfield

Context: TQEF Project

```
              Supported
              curriculum
              development

   3 years
   funding                              Offering
                                     money and support
         TQEF
   Distributed Learning
        Project

              Focus on BA (Hons)
      Targeting 28 modules    Humanities Degree
                                programme
```

University of
HUDDERSFIELD
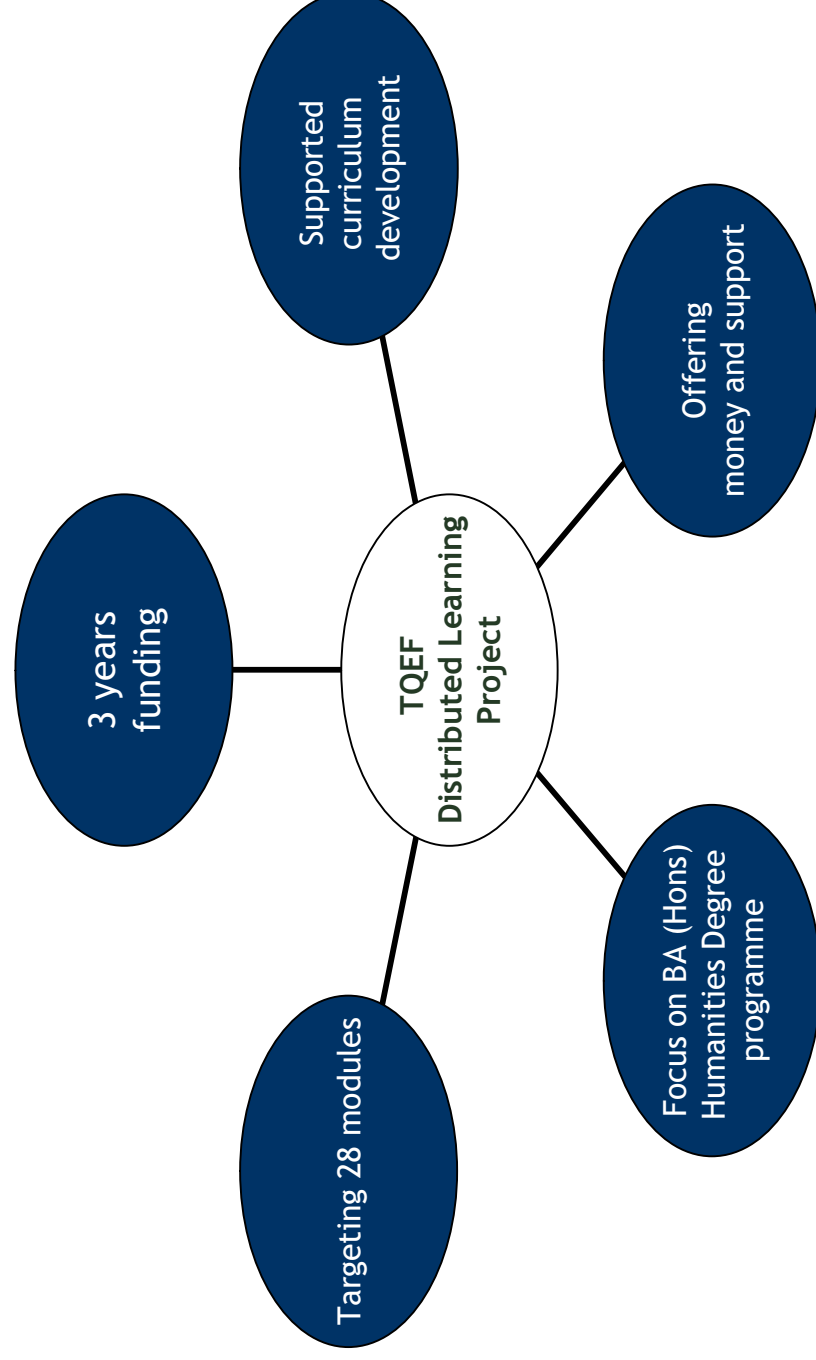
What is Distributed Learning?

- Distributed student cohorts

- T&L dispersed across settings, time, and a variety of technologies

- Not distance learning, not traditional learning somewhere in between

- Student-centred learning environment:

  □ uses flexible learning - *student choice and control*

Why Are We Using Distributed Learning?

Two Main Reasons

Practical

- New campuses
- Widening participation
- Small cohorts of students

Strategic

- 'Petri dish' approach
- Distributed cohorts force change in thinking
- Successes replicated on main campus

University of HUDDERSFIELD

Online activities

Paper based resources

Blogs

Video-conferencing

Face-to-face classes

Q&A Sessions

Discussion boards

Screen-casting

webinars

Film-making

Wikis

Learning objects

University of
HUDDERSFIELD

Case Study: Screen-casting

University of
HUDDERSFIELD
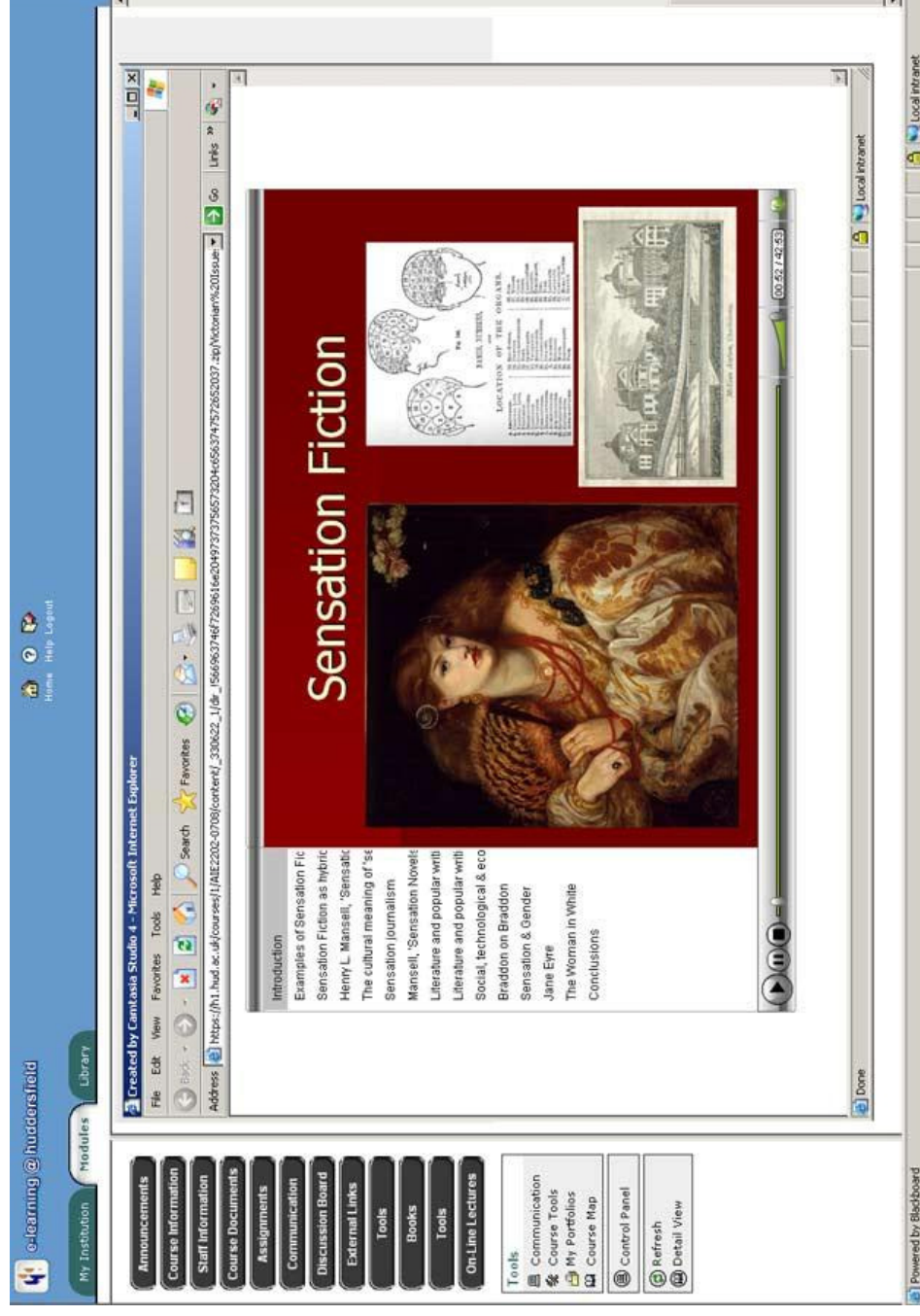
What Benefits Do These Strategies Bring?

Quality

Development

Reward

Equivalence

Research

Collaboration

Efficiency

Less travelling

Less duplication

Diversity

Costs

Viability

Flexibility

Quality learning

Venn diagram with three overlapping circles: Students, Institution, Staff
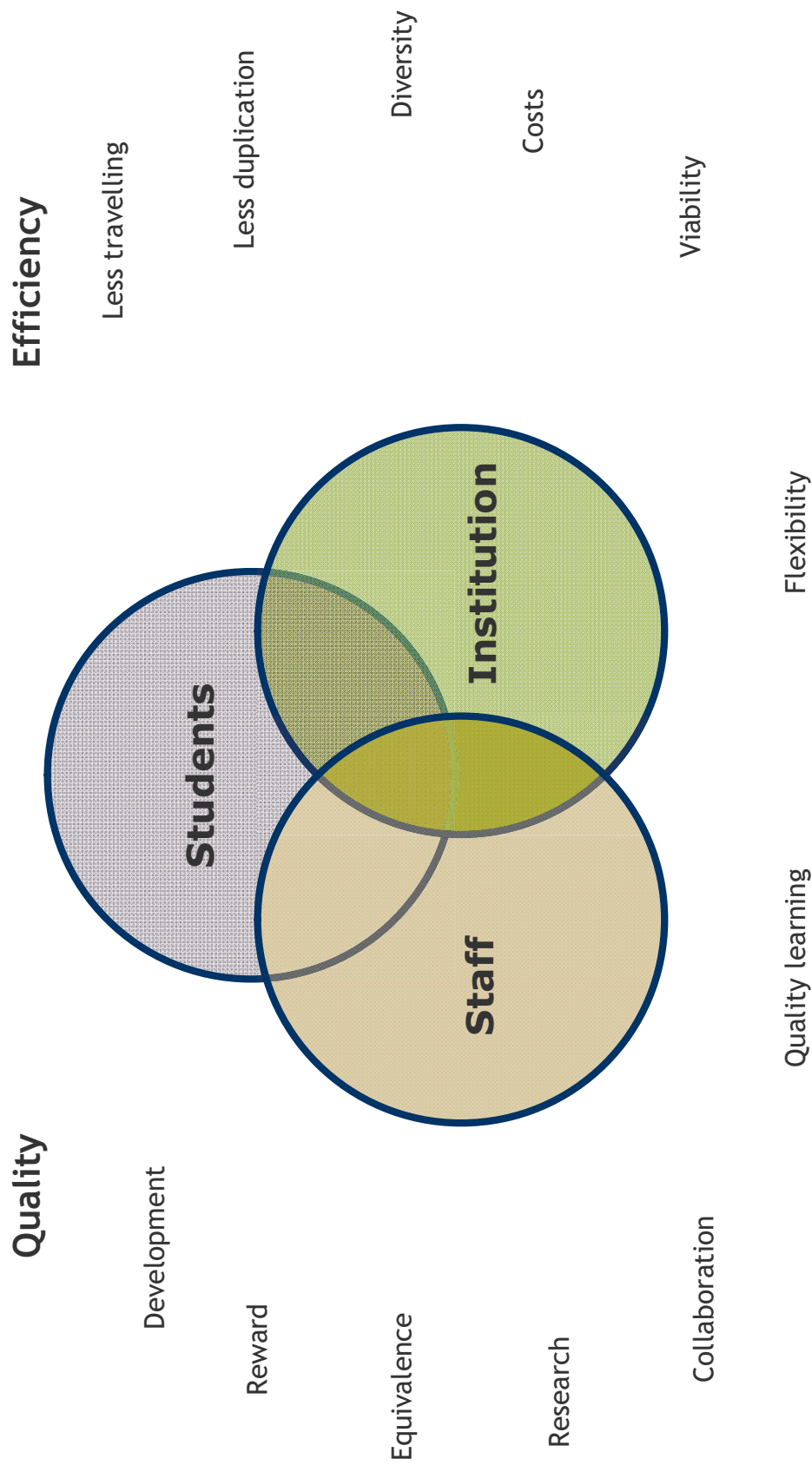
What Have We Learned?

- It brings unexpected benefits

- It's actually easier than many people think

- There are obstacles to overcome

- Efficiencies of scale increase with added campuses

University of
HUDDERSFIELD

Contact Details

Cath Ellis

Head of Humanities & Project Leader

University of Huddersfield

01484-471397

c.a.ellis@hud.ac.uk

Sue Folley

Learning Designer/Developer & Project Manager

University of Huddersfield

01484-472832

s.folley@hud.ac.uk

University of
HUDDERSFIELD