

Student Engagement

A WebLearn and RLOs showcase

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Student Engagement

- Background information: Why use WebLearn?
- Examples of engaging students with WebLearn (including RLOs)
- Results

Background Information: Why use WebLearn?

Context of London Met

- Widening participation university
- Non-standard entry students
- Inner city location
- Commuter students




London Metropolitan University

The course

- International Purchasing
- Part-time professional students
- Full-time degree students
- Professional body accreditation


Module Requirements

- Required by professional body
 - Exam
 - Coursework
- Continuous assessment
 - Additional weekly engagement
 - Monitoring progress – self and lecturer
 - Confidence building




Problems to solve

- Limited opportunity for peer to peer communication
- Not enough student practice and retention with module material




Constraints


- Must work with large groups of students
- Must be manageable for the students
- Must not increase the marking load



Solutions for engaging the students with WebLearn?





- Problem to solve
 - Lack of peer-to-peer communication
- WebLearn Solution
 - Discussion tool in WebLearn



Discussion Tool

- Asynchronous weekly tasks
 - Responses to tutor 'starter' post and another students post
- Benefit
 - Students communicate with peers outside of the classroom

How can you do this?

- You can easily create discussions yourself in WebLearn.
- Please come to a TLTC training session entitled:
 - **Creating Online Discussions and Chats**
 - <http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/tltc/>

- Problem to solve
 - Lack of student practice and material retention
- WebLearn Solutions
 - Solution 1: Self marking quizzes
 - Solution 2: Reusable learning objects

Solution 1: Self marking quizzes

- Text based quizzes
 - Questions based on student's research
- Multiple Choice
 - Mark for attempt (language problem concern of some students)
- These are automatically graded
- Benefit
 - Students engage with the material
 - Students get automatic feedback and grades

How can I do this?

- You can easily create quizzes, self-tests or surveys yourself in WebLearn.
- Please come to a TLTC training session entitled:
 - **Building Online Quizzes, Surveys and Self Tests**
 - <http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/tltc/>

Solution 2: Reusable Learning Object (RLO)

- What is a RLO?
 - Ready made online tutorial
 - Combining: Audio, Video, Text, Images etc...
 - Self-paced online learning 24/7
 - Each focusing on one clear learning goal
 - Free and easy to use and distribute
 - Option for automatic grading
 - <http://www.rlo-cetl.ac.uk>
- Benefit
 - Enables students to engage with the material and retain information
 - Students can get automatic grades

RLO Activities

- Can contain a variety of activities:
 - Case studies
 - Quizzes
 - Games
 - Puzzles
 - Tutorials
- These interactive resources can include:
 - Text
 - Images
 - Audio and video

Reusable Learning Objects

- Example of RLO learning object as a weekly task
 - Shopping basket price comparison of fair-trade goods



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Example of a game developed by TLTC

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Example of a game developed by TLTC

INCOCHALLENGE Problem based learning multi-media quiz Debbie Holley & Richard Haynes.

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Example of a game developed by TLTC

- A fun element to assessment
- The boat sails on if they get the scenario correct
- Hints and tips if a wrong answer

Students find out if their journey is successful....

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How can I get a RLO?

1. Use a ready made RLO from the website
 - <http://www.rlo-cetl.ac.uk>
2. Request a custom made RLO
 - <http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/tltc>

- Look at the TLTC showcase for ideas or bring your own ideas to the approachable TLTC developers.

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Use a pre-made RLOs

- London Metropolitan University with its partners, the University of Cambridge and University of Nottingham have launched
 - The Centre for Excellence in Teaching in Learning (CETL) who specialise in Reusable Learning Objects (RLO).
- CETL have created many pre-made RLOs that are free and easy to add to your WebLearn modules.
 - www.rlo-cetl.ac.uk

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RLO Subjects

- Study Skills
- Maths
- Business

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RLO Subjects

- Marketing
- Science
- Languages

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Student Opinions

- **Discussions**
 - *"I found the online tasks great - to me it did not feel like I was completing work but more of a fun activity among friends."*
- **Quizzes**
 - *"So far, it is the most fun assessment I've done @ like those online quizzes a lot"*
 - *"I do like the idea of weekly quizzes. I think that this is a good re-cap for the lecture and helps memorise facts."*

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Adding it to WebLearn

- Adding a ready made RLO to WebLearn
 - Copy and paste the link into a WebLearn link

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Getting your own RLO

- The Multimedia Developers at TLTC can create bespoke RLOs for you.
- How?
 - You think of an idea for a resource
 - Discuss your ideas with a multimedia developer at TLTC
 - They create the resource for you for free
 - Add a link to the resource in your module
- <http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/tltc/>

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Results

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Student Opinions

- RLOs
 - *'I think the online marks were very useful and I loved all different tasks'*
 - *'I like the weekly task because it keeps me engaged to the subject, so I believe I learn more..'*

Overall Evaluation



- Students liked it
- Students got more involved in peer-to-peer communication
- It encouraged engagement
- Some students wanted qualitative judgemental assessment – conflict with aims
- New arrangements of time and space of study

Useful Links



- Ready made RLO's
 - <http://www.rlo-cetl.ac.uk>
- TLTC for Multimedia and WebLearn information
 - <http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/tltc/>
- Write Now CETL
 - <http://www.writenow.ac.uk/>
- Learn Higher CETL
 - <http://www.learnhigher.ac.uk/>
- Liaise with your subject centre for other resources and ideas for funding