MaPS Digital and Blended Learning Newsletter

#1 - Using Video - December 2016

Welcome to our first newsletter, which aims to keep you informed about new developments in digital and blended learning, and the support available within the faculty to help you with the use of digital tools in your teaching. Each newsletter will include a focus on one particular area of technology-enhanced teaching: this time, the use of video.

MaPS Blended Learning Team

The Faculty Digital and Blended Learning Intern is Jamie Ridley (right), who graduated with an MPhys from Leeds in July. Jamie is available to help with the VLE, lecture/desktop capture, e-assessment, or any way in which you use (or would like to use) technology in your teaching.

The other members of the team include Dr Richard Ansell (Faculty Academic Champion for Blended Learning), Elrica Degirmen (Faculty Student Champion for Blended Learning). There are also the BL representatives for each school within the faculty; Dr Nimesh Mistry, Chemistry; Dr Peter Ho, Food Science and Nutrition; Dr Philip Walker, Mathematics and Statistics; and Dr Robert Purdy, Physics and Astronomy. Do get in touch with any of us if you’d like to discuss any aspect of blended learning.

The faculty blended learning website is the best place to find information on the support available for blended learning in the Faculty and around the University, and to find out about new developments.

Video for Teaching: Including Desktop Capture and VideoLeeds

Video (including slide presentations with voiceover) can be used to introduce material for the first time (the ‘flipped classroom’ model), for revision/reinforcing material learnt in class (lecture capture), and in complementary ways (e.g. to provide feedback on coursework)¹. It’s really good that so many staff around the faculty are using Lecture Capture – we get extremely positive feedback about this from students. Do remember that recordings are now released automatically to students enrolled on the corresponding module c 48 h after the lecture takes place – if you wish you can edit your recordings or make them private.

Some staff are also making use of personal capture: this is a simple and effective way to record short presentations for your students. You can record audio together with e.g. powerpoint slides, or whilst demonstrating the use of a piece of software. It is particularly effective to use desktop capture on a tablet, which enables you to capture handwritten material such as equations and chemical structures. The Mediasite desktop recorder software is available on all staff PCs, and can be downloaded to your own device. This, along with support materials, is available at http://www.sdduonline.leeds.ac.uk/changinglandscape/tools/personal-capture/. You can obtain a headset, microphone and webcam free of charge from the faculty IT team (it’s possible to record the desktop of your PC with


or without a separate webcam channel, i.e. a talking head).

Once you have made a recording, you can review and edit it using mymediasite [http://mymedia.leeds.ac.uk](http://mymedia.leeds.ac.uk). From here too, you can publish recordings to a particular module in the VLE, or to different audiences as you choose via VideoLeeds. VideoLeeds is the University’s streaming video service and replacement for the old LUTube.

You can upload other forms of media to mymediasite, including e.g. video recorded via camcorder, and manage it in the same way.

We’d be delighted to hear any examples of how you are using video in the teaching of your students.

**Other Blended Learning News**

- The University’s [digital learning team](http://mymedia.leeds.ac.uk) are supporting many staff across the University in producing [MOOCs and online modules](http://mymedia.leeds.ac.uk) for external audiences. For example, Prof. Paul Taylor in the School of Chemistry worked with a team of colleagues and the digital learning team to produce the digital discovery module CHEM1200 *The extraordinary Chemistry of Everyday Life* earlier this year. Parts of this module were repurposed to create a MOOC on the FutureLearn platform for level 10-11 school students *Exploring Cancer Medicines* [https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/exploring-cancer-medicines](https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/exploring-cancer-medicines). Other parts have been incorporated into further MOOCs, to be released this year, which in combination will form a 10-credit module that external students will pay to enrol on, and obtain credits from the University of Leeds. Dr Richard Foster, who developed the materials on cancer medicines, is positive about the experience: ‘the material wasn’t too time consuming to put together. I actually enjoyed putting it together - it was interesting to think about teaching the material in a different way and to take the message to a difference audience’. Paul adds ‘Universities like ours often talk about research-led teaching, but it’s hard to really do this beyond Levels 3 and 5 using traditional methods. With the MOOC format we are bringing, for example, Richard’s work on cancer medicines to our own first years, to students across campus through Discovery, and to school kids and a wide range of other interested parties including healthcare professionals around the world through FutureLearn. We hope communicating the excitement of research this way will inspire people to look at this science more closely, to look at Leeds, and to look at our programmes.’

- The university has redeveloped three lecture theatres (Roger Stevens Lecture Theatre 8, Mechanical Engineering Lecture Theatre B, and Worsley Dental Lecture Theatre) as [collaborative lecture theatres](http://www.sdduonline.leeds.ac.uk/changinglandscape/tools/redesigned-lecture-theatres-2016-2017/), designed for students to work together in groups, enabling shared electronic whiteboards, and with the largest tablet for you to teach from that you have ever seen…. You can book these spaces via your Student Education Service timetabling staff, and more info is at [http://www.sdduonline.leeds.ac.uk/changinglandscape/tools/redesigned-lecture-theatres-2016-2017/](http://www.sdduonline.leeds.ac.uk/changinglandscape/tools/redesigned-lecture-theatres-2016-2017/)

- Look out for the new [classroom quiz tool](http://mymedia.leeds.ac.uk), which will be released next semester. This will be an integrated part of an upgrade to the [UniLeeds app](http://mymedia.leeds.ac.uk), which is currently being introduced for attendance monitoring only, and will replace the use of classroom clickers or other polling tools. Staff will be able to present quizzes to students who enrol into their class via their mobile device. More information on the new quiz tools will be released at the [Student Education Conference and Digifest](http://mymedia.leeds.ac.uk), on 5th-6th January 2017.

---

1 Photo © Beth Snowden, University of Leeds