

Project Name: Creatively Using Learning Technologies

Amendment History:

Version No.	Date	Reason for Amendment
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Name of Project Manager & Contact Details John Colvin (j.colvin@worc.ac.uk)

Document Distribution

<i>Name</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Action/Information</i>
Debbie Lambert	LLN	Manager of the LLN	For information
Geoffrey Elliott	UW	Members of the Steering Group	To approve the proposal
Chris Morecroft	WCT		
Ian Peake	HCT		
Mike Rookes	OU		
Gail Rothnie	UoB		
Donna Obrey	LLN	Project Officer for the LLN	To track and monitor project

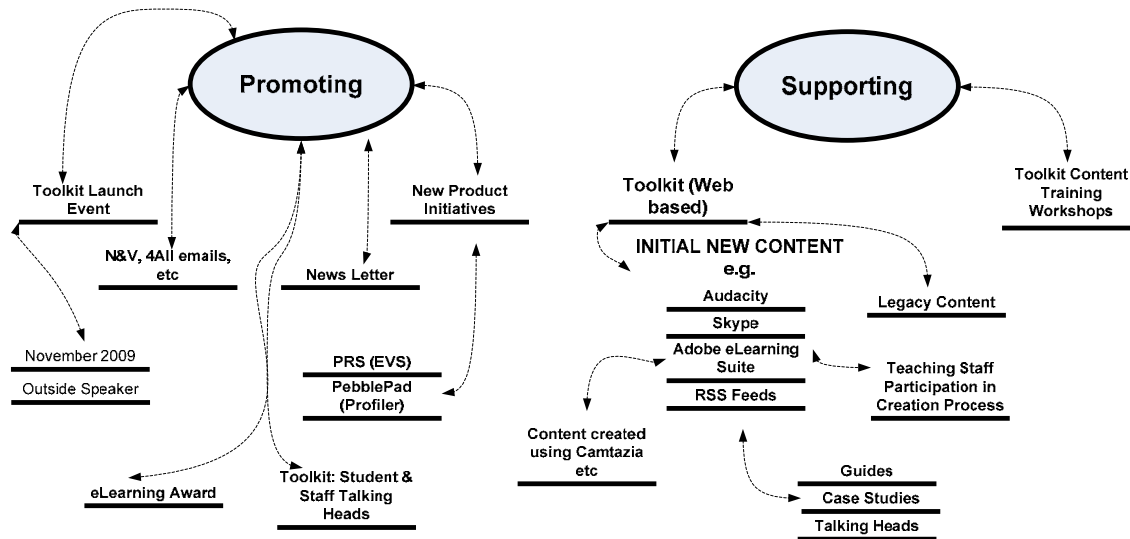
Background

In 2008-2009 the University of Worcester participated in the HE Academy's eLearning Benchmarking Exercise (<http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/ourwork/learning/elt/benchmarking>) that aimed to benchmark eLearning on courses at the University and on courses delivered at partner institutions. In line with other cohort institutions, at the end of this participation we reported an encouraging level of staff engagement with learning technologies. However, the majority of activity entails rudimentary use of our VLE as a repository for teaching materials and Powerpoint presentations. The recent introduction of an e-portfolio tool and pilot projects using a variety of technologies is beginning to demonstrate the potential of learning technologies to support interactive student centred learning activities. Like other institutions, we now wish to encourage and support our staff and staff at partner institutions to emulate the 'early adopters' who are using learning technologies more creatively to support active student centred learning. We regard this as an important dimension of addressing our key institutional objective to provide an outstanding student experience through measures to improve student retention, progression and achievement. Our students indicate high levels of satisfaction with their experience at the University (as measured through, for example, the NSS), but we consider that this satisfaction does not yet translate through into year on year improved student outcomes as measured by key performance indicators (e.g. continuation and pass first time rates, completion and degree class outcomes). The project has now been accepted as one of ten projects that constitute the HE Academy's Enhancement Academy (<http://elearning.heacademy.ac.uk/weblogs/ea/>) and as such the project will receive 'modest' contributions towards travelling expenses to enable for the project team to attend HEA Enhancement Academy events.

Objectives of the Project

This project aims to promote and support the creative use of eLearning, as illustrated below

CULT (Creatively Using Learning Technologies)



The principal objectives of this project

- To work in partnership with partner institutions
- Maintain the profile of eLearning at the University and its partners that has been generated by initiatives such as the LLN Innovation Prizes and the University of Worcester's participation in the HEA eLearning Benchmarking Exercise
- To encourage and support staff at the University and its partners to use eLearning creatively to enhance the student experience and improve student retention and achievement

These will be achieved by, inter alia

- Exploiting various marketing opportunities e.g. HEA events, new product initiatives to promote the creative use of eLearning
- Creating a collection of support materials to support staff at the University and its partners in their creative use of eLearning tools
- Hosting an event on November 11th to launch the collection of support materials
- Hosting a number of staff development events for the promoted tools

The scope of the project does not currently include staff development events (last bullet point above) for the promoted tools and the project team is applying for LLN funding to achieve this scope extension and so enable it to

- Organise and deliver these events
- Give each delegate attending an event an item of technology that can be used with their teaching e.g. staff attending an event on Audacity might be given an MP3 player/recorder.

Scope:

Key Products from the project

- Collection of materials to support the use of creative eLearning tools
- Showcase event for the launch of the collection of materials
- Seven staff development events, each targeting a particular eLearning tool

Constraints

- The time and funding constraints limit the number of eLearning tool that can initially be included in the resource collection

Benefits of the Project

- Strengthening of partnership links with partner institutions
- Enhanced profile of eLearning at the University and its partners
- Increased creative use of eLearning by staff at the University and its partners to enhance the student experience and improve student retention and achievement

Timescale

Semester 1, 2009/2010:	Creation of Resource Collection
Semester 2, 2009/2010:	Delivery of Training Events

Costs

The project team are requesting a contribution towards the cost of the staff development events

Organising/Delivering Staff Development Events:	£2500
Cost of items of technology given to attendees	£2500
TOTAL	£5000

How will the project be evaluated?

A Steering Group will evaluate this project and will consist of

- Prof. Ros Fossett (DVC)
- Prof. Peter Bullen (University of Hertfordshire)
- Dr Marie Stowell (Director of Quality and Educational Development)
Dr Andrew Rothery (Senior Fellow in eLearning)
- Michael Collins (Education Officer – Students' Union)

How will the project be sustained?

The collection of resources will be maintained and developed by Information Learning Services' eLearning team

Implications for Equality & Diversity

The availability of these materials will support staff in the creation of learning materials for students with diverse learning styles and for students with particular learning challenges

Initial Risk Log

The following table summarises the risks that have been identified that may prevent the project being completed to the required quality, budget and timescale. The probability and impact of each risk has been graded as low, medium or high to indicate the relative importance attached to each element of risk.

Risks	Probability	Impact	Containment Plan
Learning Box repository not fully functional by Nov 11 launch event	LOW	HIGH	Alternative Plan - Temporary Web Page
Non-participation by staff	LOW	HIGH	High profile marketing strategy
Work Overload on eLearning team	MEDIUM	HIGH	Restriction on the initial tool coverage in CULT resource collection
Funding withdrawn by University	LOW	HIGH	University has made a written commitment to HE Academy to fund the project
Project Team Membership Depletion	LOW	MEDIUM	Multi-skilled project team membership able to fill gaps

Project Team

John Colvin (Project Leader)

Debbi Boden (Deputy Director of Information Learning Services)

Ian Scott (Head of Academic Development and Practice Unit)

Libby Symonds (Head of eLearning Team)

David Antell (President of Students' Union)