Unlocking our eScholars

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ABSTRACT

eSCHOLARS… who are they?

We all are! (or we all should be…). eScholars are those academic staff that use multimedia technologies to support their teaching, learning and research practices in an efficient and effective way.

BACKGROUND:

The Faculty of Arts and Media Technology (AMT) is committed in developing its academic staff technology ‘literacy’, looking for opportunities to enhance its digital base know-how, by empowering them in the use of current, new and emerging technologies to support teaching, learning and research.

The key for AMT its been to find a few different modes that would make academic staff feel comfortable with and encourage and motivate them to keep experimenting with new and emerging multi-digital media.

OBJECTIVE:

To empower academic and research staff in the use of technology to support and enhance their practice and promote effectiveness in collaboration.

METHODS

A number of approaches have been explored and applied, underpinned by an ‘action research’

 Variety of staff development approaches (face-to-face – group and individual; software specific, infrastructure specific; collaboration with the UoB ICT, staff development and other faculties and department teams, etc) and pilots introducing new interactive proprietor and open source software and cloud technologies freely available and suitable for most subject areas (including unfair means, PDP, teaching and learning, eLibrary, ejournals software).

Online interactive resources

Good and best practice exemplars

Feedback on interactive surveys, self-assessing skills and peer observation of teaching & research supervisory teams

RESULTS

An exponential increase in 50% in 2 years in all academic and research staff in the faculty using technology to support their practice (from interactive resources online, cloud technologies, to multimedia and social and collaborative media).

CONCLUSIONS:

Technology is here to stay. Higher education has so far resisted the fast integration of technology in teaching, learning and research, and most major changes that have been seen elsewhere. However, a gradual, non-stopping and fundamental shift in the practice of academics is taking place. Every aspect of scholarly practice is facing changes affected by the adoption of new technologies.

This action research has aimed to explore, indentify and implement an efficient and effective organic staff multi-modal digital literacy development approach.

KEYWORDS

• AMT Local Strategic Plan 2007 - 2009
• AMT Strategic plan 2010 and 2011

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