Embedding Mobile Technology in Learning

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Definitions....

- Mobile technology
  - PDAs (personal digital assistants)
  - Mobile phones
  - UMPCs (ultra Mobile PCs)
    - Common features include web connectivity, cameras (inc video), audio recorders, email, games & information management

- Learning
  - Activities that engage the learner and induce new understandings/attitudes/ behaviours

The model learning experience

The aim is to produce a knowledgeable, competent & confident person ready to become a lifelong learner

- What should they learn?

- How should they learn?

- Which of the above is the most important?

The model learning experience

Content

- Often dynamic
- May be skills based
- May be professionally driven

Process

- Actively engages the learner
- Promotes autonomy and self awareness
- Flexible
- Supportive environment
- Accessible

The model learning experience

Key Processes:

Active engagement

Autonomous learning
- Flexibility
- Personalised
- Choice
- Creative
- Collaborative

Key processes cont....

Assessment for learning

- Assessment strategies
  - Clear start and end points
  - Clear criteria are available & understood

- Feedback
  - ✓Self
  - ✓Peer
  - ✓Others

Key processes cont....

Supportive environment

- Academic staff
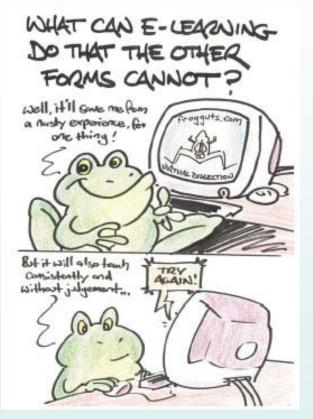- Peers
- Professional networks
- Social networks

Accessible

- in all its forms

How can mobile technology enhance these concepts?

Mobile technology could support...

- Content
  - E-books
  - Word files
  - Learning objects
  - E-portfolios
  - Podcasts
  - Notes
  - Calendars
  - Contacts

- Processes
  - Assessments
  - Feedback
  - E-portfolios
  - Blogs
  - Reflection in action
  - Audio reflections
  - Social websites
  - MSN etc

Opportunities for and Challenges to embedding MT in learning

Embedding mobile technology in curricular

- Opportunities

  - Dynamic interaction between the learner, the learning environment and the learning outcomes

  - Support for collaborative learning and construction of meaning through information sharing & discussion

  - Student access to communities of practice

  - Enhanced student reflectivity

  - Learning in authentic contexts

  - Widening access

(JISC, Innovative practice with e-learning)

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- Challenges
  - Usability of smaller devices
  - Lack of familiarity with functions
  - Instability of software
  - Creating resources for smaller screen
  - Emotional factors
  - User reluctance
  - Institutional factors (inc staff development)
  - Matching device to learning activities & outcomes

  - (JISC, Innovative practice with e-learning)

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For these processes to become embedded careful thought is required:

• To what extent can we hope students will engage with mobile technology?
• How can we optimise participation?
• How should mobile learning be funded?
• What support systems need to be in place?

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Does your institutional LTA strategy incorporate provision for mobile LTA?

Does your institutional E-strategy incorporate provision for mobile LTA?

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Thank you for your participation

Do you have any questions?

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