



Learning Innovation Network *Newsletter*

ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (APD)

The Learning Innovation Network subgroup for the development of shared Academic Professional Development (APD) Programmes has continued to progress with the development of the seven level 9, 10 ECTS short courses. One of the key successes to the development of these programmes has been the collaborative nature of the design process.

There are now a number of modules coming up for validation in the participating institutes whilst another two modules have now progressed in their validation process - Limerick IT (Technology Enhanced Learning Module) and Institute of Technology Blanchardstown (Enquiry Based Learning). To date, one module has completed the whole process and four modules are well underway towards their final validation. The remaining two modules should be starting the validation process very shortly.

The subgroup met on the 5th of March in the DIT to discuss the development of the modules and to start looking into how the implementation of the modules could be effected in a flexible way using blended learning technologies. Noel Fitzpatrick and Catherine Bruen (NDLR) have agreed on a process of sharing resources between the two SIF projects to aid the development of Reusable Learning Objects (RLOs) to support the implementation of the Academic Professional Development (APD) Modules.

The key innovative element of the APD modules will be a mentoring process which will accompany staff through their academic professional development and these new programmes.

The development of the mentoring module will be a central tenet to the APD programmes. The subgroup discussed this in detail. A workshop was delivered by Dr. Ciara O' Farrell (CAPSL Trinity College) on March 27th to help the team better understand the role that an Academic mentor will have in the Institutes of Technology and what might usefully be included in a Mentoring module.

As the development of the modules is now well under way, the Subgroup is investigating different combinations of learning pathways which could lead to some type of overall award.

If you have any questions about the development of shared academic development programmes please do not hesitate to contact; Dr. Noel Fitzpatrick (noel.fitzpatrick@dit.ie).

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LIN PORTAL

To populate content on the LIN portal, the LIN team are harvesting interesting links related to teaching and learning. The goal is to provide a central location for interesting material related to teaching and learning. The portal will have the following;

1. Link to all IoTs
2. Facility to create your own personal and public space (on registering and signing in) – optional
3. Recommended reads
4. Syndicated content related to (for more information on what is syndicated content, please go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0klgLSxGsU>)
5. The following syndicated content will be available in the form of TABS;
 - a. Tools – Learning tools, Reading Assistance Tools, Recording Tools, Interface Tools, Planning Assistance Tools, Visualisation Tools and Writing Tools.
 - b. Assessment – e-Assessment, Assessment Publications
 - c. E-learning – Techlearnology, Distance Education, e-Learning News, e-Learning Blogs, e-Learning Software and Blended Learning
 - d. Learning objects – Free learning objects, learning objects categorised by discipline e.g. Science, math, Engineering, Computer Science, Social Work, Physiology, Health and Life Sciences and Global Studies.

For more information on the portal, please contact attracta.brennan@gmit.ie



RECOMMENDED READ

“Teaching Tips: Strategies, Research, and Theory for College and University Teachers” by Wilbert J. McKeachie and

Marilla Svinicki

If you have room for only one pedagogical book on your shelf, it ought to be Wilbert McKeachie's Teaching Tips," says Bill McAllister of the University of Virginia. This book is perhaps the most valuable and easy-to-consult resource on teaching.

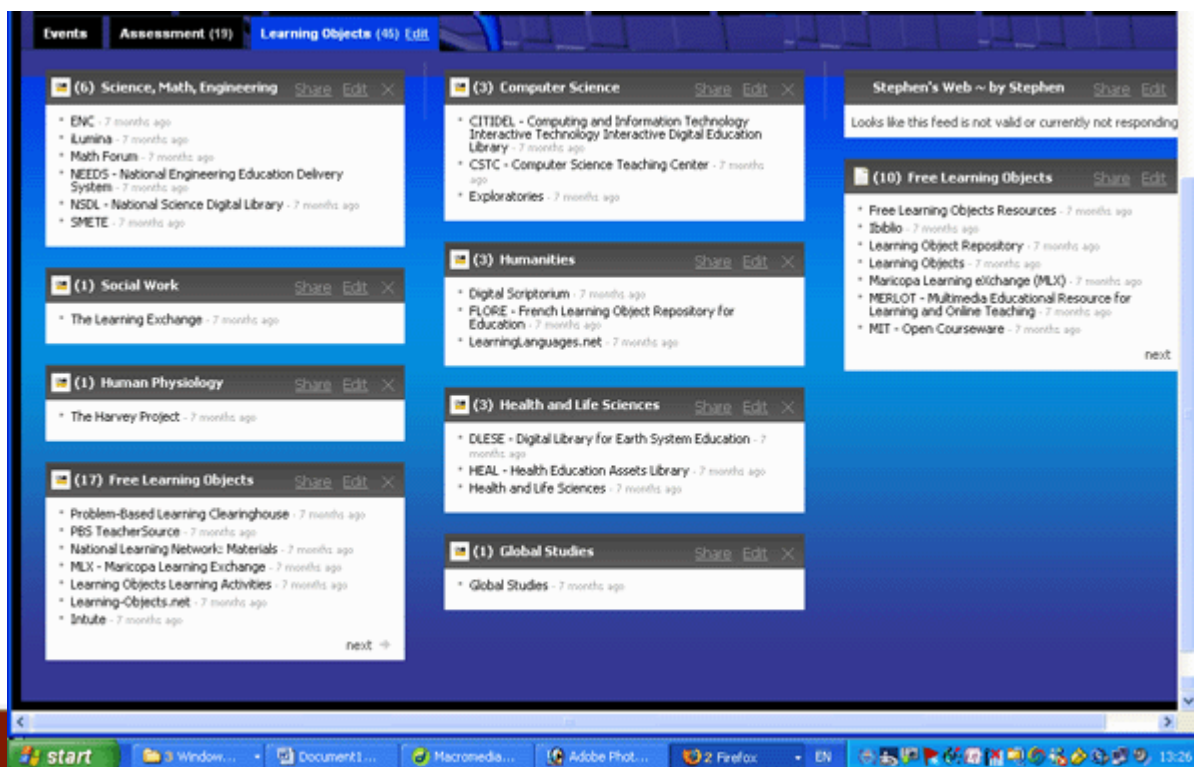


RECOMMENDED READ

Teaching for Quality Learning at University (2nd Ed)" by John Biggs and Catherine Tang

Recommended by Anne Carpenter, IT Carlow

This book is a conceptualisation of outcomes-based learning developed from the concept of constructive alignment (a principle used for devising teaching and learning activities, and assessment tasks, that directly address the learning outcomes intended in a way not typically achieved in traditional lectures, tutorial classes and examinations). The ideas put forward in this book have been proven to contribute to a more successful learning experience for the students. The book addresses several important issues such as designing high level outcomes, the learning activities most likely to achieve these high level outcomes, in both small and large classes, and relevant assessment and grading procedures.





'EYE' on LYIT



LYIT MISSION STATEMENT

LYIT's mission is to continuously develop as an academic institution of international repute, serving regional and national needs and pursuing, in a collaborative fashion, an ambitious progressive agenda that delivers on the aspirations of its vibrant institute population and its external stakeholders.

LYIT STRATEGIC PLAN

The current Strategic Plan (2007-2013) has activity focused objectives, grouped under the three interlinked strategic domains of; Teaching and Learning; Learner Experience; and Research, Innovation and Enterprise.

The objectives set out under Teaching and Learning encourage more flexible approaches to teaching and assessment, development of teaching materials, use of technology and further support for lecturers including pedagogical support. In addition, there are plans for a review of programme provision, improving program delivery in light of learner feedback, utilising links with relevant external bodies to inform program development and the further enhancement of language education. Further details at http://www.lyit.ie/about%20us/strategic_plan.html

NORTH WEST GATEWAY STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

The North West Gateway Strategic Alliance proposal was among the successful projects funded under Cycle 2 of the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF). The aim of this Strategic Alliance is to develop closer collaboration between LYIT and the University of Ulster (UU).

The Strategic Innovation Fund aims to stimulate innovation in higher education and research through collaboration between institutions. This SIF project will take approximately eighteen months to complete and is significant as it is the only cross-border proposal funded via SIF.

LYIT AND LIN

LYIT is represented by Dr. Averil Meehan, at meetings of the LIN Steering Group and also the LIN Academic Professional Development (APD) Sub Group.

A bus was arranged to facilitate staff attendance at the first Learning Innovation Network Conference in October, 2008. This conference was a great success and staff from LYIT who attended were very enthusiastic and said they benefited greatly.

There will be two LIN workshops to be held at LYIT in May, one on Formative Assessment and another on Problem Based Learning.



'EYE' on LYIT

TEACHING AND LEARNING AT LYIT

The overall aim of LYIT's Teaching and Learning strategy is to ensure that every student reaches their full potential not only in their academic success but also in their confidence and ability to take responsibility for their own learning so that future education can be readily undertaken, both to keep ahead of innovations in their chosen field and also to embrace new areas of knowledge.

There is a dedicated senior Academic Teaching and Learning post at LYIT with a 50% reduction in teaching workload in order to foster excellence in Teaching and Learning at LYIT and lead the development and implementation of the Teaching and Learning Strategy

A Teaching and Learning Working Group was set up in October 2008 with representatives from the School of Business, the School of Engineering and the School of Science. The draft Teaching and Learning Strategy was discussed at the working group and a revised draft is currently being prepared to address the input received.

ACADEMIC STAFF DEVELOPMENT

One of the aims of LYIT Teaching and Learning is to encourage all staff to develop their scholarship of teaching by undertaking professional development in the field of Education.

LYIT Academic staff are currently taking the Postgraduate Certificate/ Diploma/MEd in Higher Education Practice (HEP) courses with the University of Ulster. There are ten LYIT staff on the HEP certificate course currently taking their last module and due to finish in June 2009. There are fourteen LYIT staff on the HEP diploma course, and they have recently finished their last module. As this module was delivered entirely online, support meetings were arranged for participating LYIT staff.

As part of the requirements for staff delivering Veterinary modules, two lecturers from the School of Science are currently taking a Level 9 Post Graduate Training and Education Award at Griffith College, Dublin.

SEMINARS/SHORT COURSES

In addition to formal pedagogical education, there is a need for seminars and workshops of shorter duration to support the academic educational development of staff at LYIT.

The following workshops / seminars have been held at LYIT during this past year;

- Disability and Access and Inclusion in Third Level Education
- Recognition of Prior Learning Workshops
- Writing Learning Outcomes for RPL purposes
- Assessing RPL Portfolios
- The LYIT RPL policy
- Library Resources to Support Academic Research
- E-Learning in Finland
- Using WebCT to Support Teaching
 - Workshop 1 – a starter workshop suitable for staff new to WebCT.
 - Workshop 2 – explore various ways of getting content onto WebCT
 - Workshop 3- Introducing the three assessment tools in WebCT.
 - Workshop 4 – Using collaborative and discussion tools in WebCT.
- Research Methods
- Assessment Strategies and Exam Writing

Future workshops arranged:

- Lecturing Approaches, Techniques and Resources.
- LIN workshops on Formative Assessment and on Problem Based Learning

SHOWCASE OF INNOVATIONS IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

Showcase of Resources Access Office

Roisin McCormack showcased resources from the Access Office useful for lecturers taking Communications and/or Study Skills either as a module or part of a module.



'EYE' on LYIT

Showcase of WebCT Use to support Teaching

Members of staff demonstrated innovative use of WebCT in the School of Business, School of Engineering, and in the School of Science.

PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS

These are held for staff and repeated as required. Suggestions for these come from staff themselves. Topics include; Using Computing Facilities at LYIT, Library Resources for Research, WebCT support.

THE ACCESS OFFICE

LYIT's Access office was established in 2001 to fulfil LYIT's commitment to widening access to the Institute for people who have traditionally been unable to benefit from higher education opportunities. Students supported include mature students, students with disabilities, students from low income families and ethnic minorities.

The Access Office is staffed by the Access Officer, two Learning Support Specialists and a clerical officer. A number of additional staff are employed to support particular Access Office initiatives which are housed in the Learning Support Unit at LYIT.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Oran Doherty is the RPL Facilitator at LYIT and has been very active in the area of RPL since the 2006 Lónra led project aimed at Recognising Learning In The Workplace. Since then Oran has developed the LYIT RPL Policy, provided staff training, identified suitable modules and prepared RPL assessment tools, promoted RPL to employers and organized the RPL Regional Symposium at LYIT, which was very well attended.

EUROPEAN PROJECT

LYIT is the Irish partner in the Grundtvig 2 Lifelong Learning Project IANUS. There are ten IANUS partners working on issues relevant to working with learners aged 50 and over. LYIT is responsible for the development and maintenance of the IANUS Project Website as well as working with other partners to produce the project deliverables.

More details at http://www.ianusllp.com/project_objectives.html



TEACHING AND LEARNING INITIATIVES

For more information on Teaching and Learning Initiatives at LYIT contact Dr Averil Meehan at averil.meehan@lyit.ie

FOR YOUR DIARY

LIN

Monday 27th of April, National College of Ireland (9:30am – 4:30pm)

Workshop on assessment strategies in higher and further education by Prof. Sally Brown

This will be a practical and interactive workshop targeted at teaching and learning support practitioners in the third level sector

Professor Sally Brown is Pro Vice-Chancellor (Assessment, Learning and Teaching) and Professor of Higher Education Diversity in Teaching and Learning at Leeds Metropolitan University. She was awarded a National Teaching Fellowship by the Higher Education Academy in 2008, and has been a Senior Fellow of the Academy since 2007,

She was for five years Director of Membership Services for the Institute for Learning and Teaching (now merged into the Higher Education Academy). Prior to that she worked at the University of Northumbria at Newcastle for almost 20 years as a lecturer, educational developer and Head of Quality Enhancement.

Places are limited. To reserve your place on this workshop, please contact LIN@gmit.ie

OTHER

20th April – WIT (7:30pm, Main Auditorium, WIT Cork Rd Campus)

Socialisation in reverse and the erosion of adult authority
Speaker : Professor Frank Furedi, Professor of Sociology, School of Social Policy and Social Research, University of Kent. Author of *Where Have All the Intellectuals Gone?* (2006) & *Paranoid Parenting* (2008)

This lecture discusses the problems that schools (along with other adults) have in socialising young people, and how educators/experts attempt to get around the problem by encouraging young people to socialise their parents.

NOTE :

WIT Lecture fee: €10.00 per lecture. Pay at door

Reduced fee: concessions available

E-mail : mobrien@wit.ie or tel. 051 302040

LIN PICKS

UNIVERSITY OF HULL – DISABILITY SERVICES

In this link, you will find information on the following topics:

- How to deal with stress and anxiety
- Note taking and mind mapping
- Organisation and time management
- Revision and memory
- What are Dyslexia and Dyspraxia
- Writing, Researching and Referencing

W:

<http://www.hull.ac.uk/disability/dyslexia/semester1/index.html>

Also check out;

<http://www.hull.ac.uk/disability/dyslexia/semester2/index.html>

for material on;

- Academic Writing
- Assertiveness
- How to best use your brain
- How to use the software
- Presentation Skills
- Punctuation and Grammar

Sent by : Cathy McGovern, GMIT

COOL COMPUTER INTERFACES – youtube video

W: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gJSctPs9ZIE>

MICROSOFT SURFACE

Microsoft Surface turns an ordinary tabletop into a vibrant, interactive surface. It's the first commercially-available surface computing platform from Microsoft. The product provides effortless access to digital content through natural gestures, touch and physical objects. Today, it's a 30-inch diagonal display in a table-like form factor that's easy for individuals or multiple people to interact with in a way that feels familiar, just like in the real world. In essence, it's a surface come to life for exploring, learning, sharing, creating, buying and much more.

W: <http://www.microsoft.com/SURFACE/>



QUOTABLE QUOTES



Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there – Clarence W. Hall

Where man sees but withered leaves, God sees sweet flowers growing - Albert Lighton

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APRIL HOAX

The Swiss Spaghetti Harvest 1957: The respected BBC news show Panorama announced that thanks to a very mild winter and the virtual elimination of the dreaded spaghetti weevil, Swiss farmers were enjoying a bumper spaghetti crop. It accompanied this announcement with footage of Swiss peasants pulling strands of spaghetti down from trees. Huge numbers of viewers were taken in. Many called the BBC wanting to know how they could grow their own spaghetti tree. To this the BBC diplomatically replied, "place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best." –

check out:
<http://www.museumofhoaxes.com/hoax/aprilfool/>

LIN NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Dr. Attracta Brennan,

