

From sceptic to champion — the value of a team

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Abstract

How daunting must it be for an academic staff member not familiar with technology to undertake a project that uses technology in an advanced way? The creation of a set of student resources can often leave academic staff feeling overwhelmed and overworked, especially if they are using technology outside of their expertise.

In a project pioneered by the Faculty of Commerce and under the directorship of Kathy Gibson, academic staff became part of a team of experts who, using their different strengths, were able to create resources that are pedagogically sound and technologically efficient. In effect we removed the barrier for academic staff, and allowed them to provide materials from within their expertise and from the perspective of learning without requiring them to have technological knowledge.

The materials produced are now high-quality resources for students, which are self-contained, are flexible and can be studied at the student's own pace, encompassing a variety of materials and topics.

The additional value, however, is in the academics' experiences of the value of the work. The use of the team and the approach taken has created a sense of ownership from academic staff, without the stress of having to grapple with technology — and has turned many a critic into an outspoken champion of the cause.

Keywords

teamwork, flexible

Introduction

The poster presentation will highlight key points from the experience of the project team members and provide some useful guidelines that have enabled the project's success.

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