

HELPP ELGG Podcasts

<http://helpp.hull-college.ac.uk/uploads/report/interviews/elgg-part6.mp3>

Computing Students

Q Hello we're just looking into the use of ELGG in the College, did you use ELGG on your course?

A Yes, throughout the 3 years of our BSc Computing course we've used blogs in each of the years for various units that we've done.

Q What sort of age group are your students?

A Range from 19-20 to 35-36

Q And it's a full-time course?

A Yes

Q Did you replace any paper-based systems when you started using ELGG?

A Yes, we used it mainly to write our reflective blogs and then we could actually not hand in as much paper and have to print out as much stuff. We just write all our work onto a CD and then the tutor was able to log on to the system and actually check our work instead of having to print out loads of assignments and stuff.

Q Did you find there was quicker feedback that way?

A Yes, sometimes, when we looked at our blogs our tutors would reply to us through ELGG saying what we needed to add to it, extra work we needed to do. Additional comments. Yes on each individual blog which all of us put on individually so the tutor could check each one and comment on each one as required which is really helpful.

Q Are you Facebook users?

A Yes.

Q There's a big difference between Facebook and this, what do you see as the advantages of this as opposed to the Facebook?

A It's more of a learning resource rather than a social networking site as you can generally, you can use it as an online forum as such.

Q Did you use the e-portfolio?

A Yes we did.

Q Did you use any of the other features? I'm thinking about the work placement module.

A No, we didn't use that. No it was mainly only used for like uploading work for our tutor to get it that way or just writing up our blogs. We only really used it for that. Yeah we just used it really for reflective learning really. But you were able to create folders within it a bit similar to a computer and then restrict the permissions that you wanted people to see so you can still actually restrict people from seeing, it's not open to anyone when they log on to it which is good. It was really helpful, yeah definitely.

Q Did you find that you discussed each other's work at all?

A No, not really no.

Q Do you have discussions about each other's work when you're actually here working in college or is it something that is a very lonely task?

A We talk to each other about various things don't we? Yeah but usually unless somebody actually asks for help or you can clearly see they're struggling with anything then we will try and assist but other than that really not really much discussion goes on about work. Most of the discussions on the work is done mainly on forums on Moodle so we don't tend to use ELGG for anything else. Yeah, I mean I only started this year so ELGG was new to me when I first joined the College and I don't feel that if it had been explained I might have currently so far.

Q So you've not really explored the totality of that?

A No.

Q So do you think we need a bit more training at the beginning to everybody, both to staff and to students?

A Even just a user guide. Yeah. Or a help section. Yes, that would be really beneficial. Maybe like a small introduction to new courses – maybe half an hour showing new students what ELGG's all about and how to use it thoroughly because we were basically told here's ELGG now go and use it. We didn't really know the functions within it. We were thrown in at the deep end sort of thing and first you have to learn what we'd be using it for on our own. Because we had assignments we had criteria for the assignments and we weren't really going to look at the rest of it because we need to concentrate so much on getting the assignments done.

Q Thanks, that's been very helpful and all the best in your career.

A Thank you.