

HELPP ELGG Podcasts

<http://helpp.hull-college.ac.uk/uploads/report/interviews/elgg-part7.mp3>

Engineering Students

I'm Gary.... I'm on the Foundation degree for Engineering Technology.

I'm Chris.... I'm on the Foundation degree for Engineering Technology.

I'm Gary.... I'm on the Foundation degree for Engineering Technology.

Q Okay, and are you full or part-time?

A We're all part-time.

Q How long have you been using ELGG in the College?

A We've been using it since we started really, we got into it maybe 2 or 3 weeks into the course. Myself, I'd been out of college for a while so I just started using, when I used to be at Hull College they never had this system. IT-wise it was very basic so to me it was quite new so it was just getting used to using it really. I don't know about these two.

Yeah, I was on the HNC last year and we didn't have ELGG then, it's obviously a new thing for this year so it was new for everyone really.

Yeah, same here, first time I started using it this year.

Q And did you use other social networking sites like Facebook, Bebo, do you use, were you using those outside of college?

A I do have a Facebook account but I don't use it. I've got a Facebook account but I don't do any blogging or anything on it but I do have a blogger site but I only originally started the blogger site because of using ELGG, just try, you know, piecing together some of the stuff I'm doing in my own life to try and get everything in areas that can improve because the whole idea of the ELGG, well seems to me, ELGG is there to you know, self improvement so you can see where you're going wrong or maybe, you know, look back on the past events you've done maybe if it's in Mathematics or something in your life to improve.

Q It's a reflections thing isn't it?

A Yeah, exactly, that what we've been focusing around and I think we've just been drummed into us every week that we need to reflect on everything. I literally just get on with it and write about anything and everything really which can be a bad thing because you can generally just mumble on.

Q Yeah, well I suppose you can have too much on there so has it helped with your course work? Can we try to get someone else to talk here...?

A Yes, it just, cos before probably on your HNC you'd do things and you wouldn't necessarily log it down or make a comment about if you did an assignment and you struggled on it. You

wouldn't really think to log it and to do anything about it whereas using this ELGG and the whole reflection process you could actually come across a problem and because you're going through the ELGG process and doing a weekly entry you'd log that down and then do something about it and think what do I need to do, I'm not very good at Maths or this particular subject so I need to, you know, do a bit of my research by logging it down it makes you think about it a little bit more.

Q Do you discuss each other's work on there or is it just for your own reflection and stuff like that? Do you discuss top like, oh I need help with that or something like that, does it work like that or...?

A It's more personal because we've restricted the access so only... tutor(?) can see each others. I think it's possible that we probably could allow other people to see it but I wouldn't want someone to see mine.

Yeah, you can set it up for a group, which group can see and (tutor?) is in charge of the groups.

I've seen it when you publish your weekly entry you can put all users so sometimes when you go on other users can follow click on there so when you view blog it's just other people's because I've never done it accidentally and clicked on 'all users' so you can see it.

Q It's a compulsory part of the course, would you use it if it wasn't compulsory?

A I won't say I wouldn't use it but I wouldn't have known about it unless we were taught to use it but now I have used it it is actually quite useful. Like you do highlight things where things need to improve and you can look back on yourself anyway and review how you've been doing and because we upload the work we've done on to the site it makes you do the work because you need to put the proof up there that you've done it as well.

Q What kind of things are you uploading?

A Everything we've done electronically on the course gets put up there. All the assignments, everything, one particular week, say.... Did a presentation about project or you did one on employability skills you'd load that up for that week and maybe make a comment about it, say this presentation went quite well in some areas that you could maybe improve on and then you could actually load that presentation up for that week.

Q Would you use it again? Would you use a similar thing outside of this? Would you use it in your professional life or anything like that?

A I've already started on my blogger site a little thing on my own life really, seeing what I actually want to do in the future so I've already taken ELGG and actually used it in my day-to-day life rather than just college because when you've got to draw a line at College with what you're going to comment on, and you know, what you're going to comment on in other aspects of your life. I could see using it at work because we're given projects to do like from start to finish, I could see myself using it like in a project rather than storing it all in paper form in a folder, could store it electronically.

Yeah, because if you were like Gary says, to do a project at work or something if you were using something similar to ELGG you can go back weeks and weeks and weeks and look exactly at what you did that week whereas normally you probably wouldn't, if it weren't for ELGG, you wouldn't have had that information down in that detail so when you were looking say 20 weeks down the line when you were looking at the end of the project and wondering what did I do in week 2 well you know you can't remember can you, it's a scrap of paper somewhere whereas using ELGG it's all logged.

Q You've done it differently though haven't you, you haven't had a paper version of this? It was on there as soon as you started the course, is that right? Other people have had paper before and then they've gone on to this and found this better, you've got nothing else to compare it to really.

A No, this is the first thing we've done like this.