Blended learning in Library and Information Science (LIS) education and training

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Outline

- Introduction
- Statement of the problem
- Tools and strategies
- Pilot study
- Conclusion
Introduction

Teaching and Learning

Challenges
- Global marketplace and information age
  - Diversity
  - Personalised learning
  - Cost efficiency
  - Measurable outcomes
  - ICT’s
- Net generation
- Reexamine current practices
Statement of the problem

Technology (ICTs)

Web 2.0 and Library 2.0
- Educator-centred to Student-centred
  - Curriculum content
  - Methods of teaching
  - Instructional Technology

Teaching and Learning
- Technology based services
- Accessing & sharing resources
- User expectations

LIS sector

Challenges
- Levels of computer literacy
- Technical support & training
- Time
- Innovation and implementation
Literature review

• Lectures and seminars (Sweeney 2004)

• Training educators (Beyers 2009)

• Use of technology in higher education (Delany 2010)

• Online learning – Dynamic, interactive and reflective with rapid feedback (Jones 2007)
Tools and strategies using technology in teaching and learning
Tools and strategies
Tools and strategies

- Online using Learning Management systems (LMS)
- Podcasts
- Blogs
LMS

- Collaborative activities
  - Community of practice
  - Availability and accessibility
  - Learning experience

- Functionality of the software

- Advantages

- Blackboard (WebCT) / Moodle
  - Course announcement, assessments, notes, slides etc

- Learning objectives
  - Educational methodology

- Communication
Podcasts

- Lower class attendance
- May lead to cognitive overload
- Entertainment - Learning

Risks

- Audio(sound)
- Vodcasts(sound and vision)

Benefits

- Portable/Flexibility
  - Supports multi-lingual education
  - Assists students with reading disabilities
  - Enrichment for advanced learners
  - Remedial for slow learners
  - Facilitates self-paces learning

- Summaries
- Visual guides for fieldwork
- Inexpensive technology
Blogs

**Benefits**
- Blended learning
- Assessment
- Increase confidence & ownership of learning
- Record of discussion-revision
- Critical thinking & reflection
- Engaging learning environment

**Online reflective journal**

**Integrated VLE or LMS**
Pilot study
Research questions

• Are students and academics in the Library and Information Studies (LIS) education and training ready and eager to embrace innovative methods using technology in teaching and learning?

• What effective technology tools can be used in the LIS programme to enhance teaching and learning?
Methodology

• Web survey questionnaires

• Interviews— academics and facilitators of blended learning

• Focus group discussion - students
Findings and discussion

• Accessibility

• Communication

• Attendance (Lonn and Teasly 2009)

• Language (Walls 2010)

• Cost
Conclusion

“The matching of teaching and learning styles, which is consistent with constructivist theory, and the merger of appropriate technology tools have the potential to produce motivated thinkers and lifelong learners”

Marcie A. Zisow
Thank you!