

UK Perspectives and Initiatives in ICT

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Theme: Policy and planning, Teaching and learning

Summary

About 15 members of the Dutch delegation attended the session jointly organised by the LTSN Generic Centre, the JISC Technologies Centre and the Institute for Learning and Teaching.

JISC Technologies Centre, TechLearn and TechDis

Ted Smith gave an introduction on the JISC Technologies Centre, TechLearn and TechDis.
Website JISC Technologies Centre: www.technologiescentre.ac.uk

The slides are online available: [www.techlearn.ac.uk/NewDocs/Technologies Centre General Introduction.ppt](http://www.techlearn.ac.uk/NewDocs/Technologies%20Centre%20General%20Introduction.ppt)

TechLearn supports a co-ordinated approach to the use of innovative technologies in learning and teaching across UK Further and Higher Education. Current work includes E-tutoring briefings, videoconferencing/tele-presence, wireless technologies, broadband technologies, re-usable objects for education simulation, ubiquitous computing (anywhere anytime computing).

TechDis is an ICT advice and support service to enhance access for those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to learning, teaching, research and administration.

Learning and Teaching Support Network (LTSN)

Slides: handouts on paper, slides should be online (no URL available yet), website LTSN, website Generic Centre: www.ltsn.ac.uk and www.ltsn.ac.uk/genericcentre

Brenda Smith gave an overview of both the Learning and Teaching Support Network (LTSN) and the role the Generic Centre plays within the LTSN.

The LTSN is a network of 24 subject centres based in higher education institutions throughout the UK. The four HE funding bodies in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland funds it. It aims to promote high quality learning and teaching through the development and transfer of good practice in all subject disciplines and to provide a 'one-stop shop' of learning and teaching resources for the HE community. All subject centres' websites can be accessed from the LTSN website.

The subject centres are a mix of single-site and consortium-based centres, all located within relevant subject departments and hosted by HE institutions. The subject centres aim at having a key departmental contact for each subject area in each of the institutions. They do things like set-up regional networks of people involved in a certain subject area, organise workshops, seminars and conferences etc.

The Generic Centre tries to build links between the subject centres and is involved in the issues that are common to all subject areas.

The LTSN focuses on four major areas: assessment, employability, widening participation, e-Learning.

An example of this is the Assessment Series - available online (www.ltsn.ac.uk/genericcentre/projects/assessment/assess_series.asp). It is a series of briefings on subject regarding assessment and it identifies four groups of users of the guides: Senior management, head of department, lecturers and students. Especially the last usergroup is often forgotten, often it is assumed that student know all they kneed to know about assessment, which is not the case of course.

Another example is the series of starter guides for on-line learning and teaching, also available online: www.ltsn.ac.uk/genericcentre/projects/elearning.

Implementing VLE's and e-Learning

Tom Franklin and Kathy Wiles talked about issues regarding the implementation of VLE's and e-Learning.

A report by the Universities and Colleges Information Systems Association (UCISA) regarding 'Management and implementation of Virtual Learning Environments' is available online: www.ucisa.ac.uk/TLIG/vle/VLEsurvey.pdf.

Even in the UK, for students, geographical distance only sometimes plays a role when deciding to choose for distance learning. Most of the time it are adults that already work and the possibility of a 'timeshift' in learning (i.e. learn in the evening) plays a much more important role.

The Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (ILT)

The ILT is a members based organisation for all who teach and support learning in higher education in the UK. Their aim is to establish standards of performance based on achievement of individuals and accreditation of staff development programmes. They provide support for their members and communities of practice. ILT members have to pay a yearly fee to be a member.

Website: www.ilt.ac.uk

Future plans

Possible co-operation for a research project regarding benchmarking the use of VLE's in the UK, Australia and the Netherlands.