

Paper 81 – Pecha Kucha

“Don't normally do Facebook”; Use of Facebook on a large online course

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Abstract

This presentation summarises the key features of the use of Facebook to support students on a large scale course. The course is delivered to 1200 trainee teachers who are studying on an online module and do not meet each other face to face until the end of the course.

A Facebook page has been set up and is available, but optional, for students who want to collaborate and support each other. It has had up to 240 active weekly users.

The presentation will use quotes to illustrate 7 types of contributions to the Facebook page:

1. Offering mutual support
2. Asking for advice on procedures
3. Asking advice on subject related topic or academic skill
4. Hanging out
5. Sharing progress
6. Networking
7. Offering encouragement from previous graduates of the module

These categories overlap with Selwyn's 5 categories (2009).

The role of the tutor and style of tutor comments will also be illustrated.

The overall assessment is that Facebook provides benefits to both the Course Team and to students and involves only small amount of additional work for the academic.

The presentation will be of interest to anyone thinking of using Facebook to support their course delivery.

References

Selwyn, N. (2009) *Faceworking: exploring students' education-related use of Facebook*. *Learning, Media and Technology*, 34(2), 157-174.