

Using embedded learning objects in LiliPad

A Library resource

VIDEO CASE STUDY	http://seedpod.org.uk/seedpod/digital-curriculum/video-case-studies/307-2
TECHNOLOGIES USED	Xerte Online Toolkits, learning objects embedded in a Google site
CONTEXT	<p>In response to the difficulties of delivering information literacy teaching to Engineering students in one 50 minute session, the original idea was to develop an interactive online tutorial designed for different abilities, including a combination of media to accommodate different learning styles.</p> <p>The whole information specialist team soon wanted to be involved - the anytime/anywhere/point of need guidance had potential benefits for placement, distance, part time and partner college students who may never attend face to face sessions.</p>
EXISTING PRACTICE	Hands-on workshops are ideal but large cohorts can mean lecture theatre presentations - not an ideal way of teaching practical skills or facilitating discussion or higher level thinking. Support material often consisted of hand-outs with step by step instructions and screenshots.
NEW PRACTICE	The mix of open source tools and Xerte framework has allowed us to supplement our teaching with more than just static documents. Using interactive tutorials in a variety of ways means students engage intellectually with the content rather than sitting passively watching a demonstration. The pace is variable and students can practise their skills.
BENEFITS	<p>Tutorials can be quickly and easily created/amended without technical support.</p> <p>Updates happen immediately and links don't have to be changed (stable url)</p> <p>Different learning styles accommodated within the sessions.</p> <p>Students can review at their own pace.</p> <p>Email enquiry time reduced -tutorials linked from ILS Self Help - links sent out to enquirers rather than lengthy emails explaining issues e.g. off-campus access.</p> <p>Apart from the LiliPad framework, stand-alone Xerte objects have been created for use in teaching sessions (embedded into Tulip) e.g. a group work activity based around a Xerte or an entire session plan delivered by Xerte instead of PowerPoint. Anyone can use the tutorials and lecturers have promoted them e.g. Evidence Based Practice module.</p>

KEY POINTS	Really easy to use - anyone can quickly create a LO. Open source - free, ideal for distance students, no log-in. Students have control - in-built accessibility features e.g. text to speech, can change background colours and font size. Based on student feedback - plans to develop LiliPad from a generic resource into a more tailored, personal subject support platform. The current platform may not continue as the content is moved, expanded and personalised. Tutorials can be "copied" and re-purposed for different subject areas. Some problems identifying screencasting software, image resizing etc. to add to the LOs. Best to upload screencasts to YouTube or Vimeo to insert into tutorials. In the future, need to rationalise the number of tutorials e.g. bring all the referencing tutorials together If a tutorial is used to replace a session, how can we ensure students have worked on it? Usage statistics.			
FEEDBACK	Positive feedback from Partner Colleges and the Faculty of Health, Education & Society and School of Computing and Mathematics. Student responses to a survey about Xerte in the classroom indicate: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• easy to use• students learn more working through a tutorial not just watching a demonstration. One comment was: <i>"I find being practical helps so the tutorials are good as I can do while I listen so it really goes in"</i>			
How can this practice be transferred?				
DIGITAL SKILLS developed by students	Self directed learning			
DIGITAL SKILLS needed by tutor	Learning design; competency with Xerte tool; understanding of copyright and licensing; photo/video manipulation skills			
SUPPORT RESOURCES provided by Plymouth University	Xerte training available through ASTI Copyright support available through ASTI (see weblink at bottom of this page)			
OTHER RESOURCES	None			
DIGITAL SKILLS TARGETED	ICT/Computer Literacy		Communication & Collaboration	
	Information Literacy	X	Digital Scholarship	
	Media Literacy		Learning Skills	X
	Being a professional			
OTHER TIPS	Xerte is a free web-based tool so no special software needed			