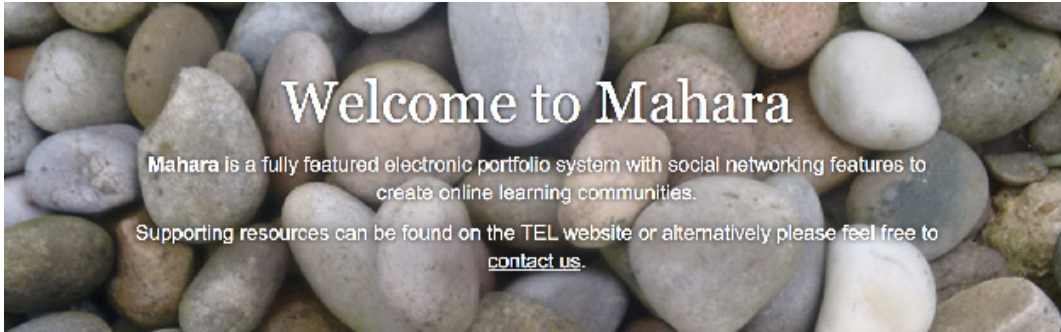


TELEGRAM



Digital Portfolios in Mahara

Mahara is an open-source tool which allows students to create e-portfolios. These e-portfolios enable students to incorporate multimedia artefacts including text, video and audio recordings, images, files, embedded web content and journal entries, and allow students to display their work in a personalised way.

As of this academic year, Mahara has been incorporated into the university's e-submission and e-feedback solution to extend support for submission of a wider range of assessment types. This means that submissions which require multimedia elements can now be included in the e-submission process.

Mahara is now in use across a number of academic schools. We spoke to Robin Banerjee, Professor of Developmental Psychology, to find out how he and his students have been using Mahara.

What motivated you to start using Mahara?

"I had been using a portfolio assessment on one of my modules previously, and used Google Sites last year. The prospect of having a system



linked with Study Direct and particularly the university's e-submission process was very welcome."

What have been the benefits of using this tool? How have you found it?

"Overall, I found the experience to be positive. I deliberately

kept the portfolio structure simple (a reflective learning journal, and two pages with more substantive pieces of writing), and that probably helped. However, there were some challenges in terms of: a) setting up a template for the portfolio that students could use and adapt (several students ended up with multiple copies of pages, which was confusing); and b) the e-submission process, mainly arising from confusion over multiple copies of pages. However, the majority of students managed the system well, and I found Mahara to be generally effective. Next year, I would like to be more adventurous in allowing students to be more creative in shaping their portfolios."

What has been the impact on the student experience?

"Probably the most distinctive element of the portfolio assignment used on my module is the reflective learning journal, and this was received very favourably by students. This enhanced their engagement throughout the module and was a great way for me to interact with students during the term, above and beyond the in-person workshops."

Learn more about Mahara

Throughout the Spring Term TEL are running 'Portfolios in Mahara' workshops which will provide an overview of Mahara and examine the range of content that can be included in a portfolio. To book a place on one of these workshops visit www.sussex.ac.uk/tel/workshops. If you would like to find out more or are interested in using this tool in your teaching please contact tel@sussex.ac.uk

Teaching with Tech Podcast



Here at Sussex – and at many other institutions around the world – educators are doing amazing things to utilise the power of technology to enhance teaching and learning. Our new 'Teaching with Tech' podcast is released monthly and provides a forum for sharing creative ideas and stories of good practice. The aim is to encourage people to try new things in their teaching and stimulate wider debate about the interface between technology and learning. Previous episodes include:

Creative Approaches to Active Learning - Prof Bugewa Apampa, Dr Geeta Hitch and Mr Michael Pettit

Developing Digital Literacy with Dr Jane Secker (LSE)

Hands-on Learning with Technology - Pollie Barden

You can listen to our podcast via our blog: blogs.sussex.ac.uk/tel/podcast. If you would like to contribute to future episodes get in touch with TEL by emailing tel@sussex.ac.uk

TEL Digital Practice Awards

The Digital Practice Awards provide funds of up to £1000 to support the development of innovative practices in the use of technology within teaching and learning at Sussex. The awards give staff the opportunity to develop or experiment with new tools, resources or teaching approaches with the potential to inform practice in their School or disciplinary area. This year's funded projects are:

DIT Digital - Dr Lucy Robinson and Dr Chris Warne

Students will use augmented reality and geo-tagging to create open educational resources in order to locate course content in Brighton's radical history.

Timeline Enhanced Learning - Prof Liz James

This project aims to use an interactive, electronic timeline to allow students to map out information drawn from research, lectures, essays and presentations and so collate and build up a sequence of useful

comparative data displayed chronologically.

ReadMeFirst: Providing access to introductory materials in public law

- Prof Lindsay Stirton and Dr Alexander Latham

A project to pilot the digitisation of introductory learning resources in a range of open, accessible and mobile formats, delivered through an open platform.

Technology enhanced seminars:

Flipped Learning for the Foundation

Year - Dr Wendy Garnham

This project will develop a flipped learn-

ing approach for seminars where students are introduced to a variety of online learning tools including a blog created and facilitated by students.

Asexuality for students in health and education - Dr Liz McDonnell and Dr Susie Scott

Researchers and TEL will collaborate to create multi-modal digital artefacts. Aimed at medical students and teacher trainees, the artefacts will provide new ways of thinking about asexuality in relation to identity and intimacy.

Teaching and Learning Toolkit

Teaching & Learning TOOLKIT



The new term has seen the launch of the Teaching and Learning Toolkit, a Study Direct site dedicated to supporting teaching and learning activities. Produced by people teaching at Sussex for people teaching at Sussex, the site aims to be a central resource for finding advice and support around teaching and learning both within Sussex and across the wider Higher Education sector.

Whether you're teaching undergraduates, supervising postgraduates or supporting students and staff at Sussex, you'll find guidance, tips and research about best

practice for all aspects of teaching and learning. Currently areas covered on the site include 'Teaching for the first time', 'Peer observation' and 'Teaching study skills'.

The Teaching and Learning Toolkit is constantly developing and feedback from Sussex staff is welcomed, if you have any suggestions for additional topics that you would find useful or improvements to the site please contact Dr Liz Sage, Teaching Fellow in Teaching, Learning and Assessment in Higher Education - l.sage@sussex.ac.uk

Flipped Learning Group

At the request of staff who attended our 'Flipped Learning: from transmission to active engagement' workshop last term, a new Flipped Learning Group has been set up at Sussex. The Flipped Learning Group is open to all staff and will meet regularly in order to allow members to share their experiences and ideas around flipped learning approaches and to allow Technology Enhanced Learning to support

staff when they come to apply these practices in their teaching. Alongside the face-to-face meetings, we have also created a Study Direct site which is designed to allow the flipped learning community at Sussex to share resources, ideas, support and advice. For more details about the group and to find out about our next meeting visit www.sussex.ac.uk/tel/ourservice/flipped

Featured app

This issue's featured app is Anchor, an app which enables you to create online voicethreads to share with your students. Anchor allows you to share a two minute audio recording online, creating a question or topic for discussion. Listeners can then reply to your 'wave' with their own short clip to instantly create a shareable digital conversation. Anchor is available on both Apple and Android devices and can be download at www.anchor.fm



Anchor

TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED LEARNING

tel@sussex.ac.uk

www.sussex.ac.uk/tel

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