



JISC RSC Scotland South & West Case Study @ Clydebank College

Staff Development

Summary

In liaison with the college's Professional Development Coordinator the JISC RSC Scotland S&W have contributed to a planned programme of training courses onsite as part of a college wide approach to up-skill staff linked to the development of e-learning capacity and move to a new build.

About Clydebank College

Clydebank College is the sixth largest college in the west of Scotland with some 11,500 annual learner enrolments and 482 staff. The college relocated to a brand new 6-acre campus on the banks of the River Clyde in August 2007. In collaboration with partner colleges and local authorities, the college offers a wide portfolio of provision and services designed to stimulate interest in learning, optimise choice and promote access and progression.

The challenge

The aim was to up-skill staff in the use of software applications and learning technologies, to support the delivery of the curriculum and enhance the quality of the learner experience. Moving to a new build was a good opportunity for a college-wide staff development initiative to encourage new ways of delivering the curriculum using technology where appropriate, whilst using the new building to its full potential.

The activity

A range of e-learning workshops was planned and delivered over a two-year period leading up to the move. The training was linked to the college's strategic plans and the programme was not only to provide staff with relevant IT skills, but also to help them consider and understand the application of these skills in their particular context, so enabling them to take full advantage of IT within their teaching. The training was designed to move staff from a basic IT competency in the use of applications, e.g. PowerPoint to the use of learning technologies, such as, interactive whiteboards and voting systems – an incremental approach.

Training workshops included:

- Introduction to e-Resources for learning & teaching
- Using Word for learning & teaching
- Using PowerPoint for learning & teaching
- Teaching with an Interactive Whiteboard
- Using CourseGenie to create interactive teaching materials
- Web 2.0 for learning and teaching
- e-assessment
- AccessApps

- Voting systems

As well as running on-site workshops, staff from Clydebank College participated in induction workshops at the Regional Support Centre as part of the RSC's training transfer strategy. This strategy was designed to enable institutions to roll-out the delivery of the eSkills for eLearning Course. This 8 x 3 hour modular course is designed to cover the essential skills and knowledge, which are needed by teaching practitioners to enable them to use technology for teaching & learning.

The outcomes

Staff were fully prepared for the new learning environment and working practices have gradually changed to effectively incorporate the use of learning technologies. The staff development programme provided a baseline from which e-learning developments have been and continue to be encouraged across all departments.

The impact

The uptake of the use of technology by both staff and students is evident in the widespread use of the college VLE, enhanced by the employment of a dedicated learning technologist to facilitate and support these developments. The benefits of having a learning technologist in place working alongside two dedicated learning and teaching advisors has had a tremendous positive impact on the development of e-learning and is the subject of one of our other 'Best of the West' case studies.

Lessons Learnt

It was found that it was important to adopt an incremental approach to the development of skills, allowing time for consolidation of skills and the application of these to learning and teaching. Also, there was a need to continue and build on the staff development programme after the move to a new campus and ensure that CPD was embedded in the college's learning and teaching strategy, which was developed by the deputy principal through the CPD programme.

Useful links

Clydebank College - www.clydebank.ac.uk

eSkills for eLearning Course - www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk/sdo/eskills.htm

Best of the West - www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk/best_of_the_west/BoW.htm

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