



JISC RSC Scotland South & West Case Study @ Dumfries and Galloway College



Transcript of Podcast:

Using EduApps resource to support the delivery of learning and teaching

Welcome to another RSC SW Scotland podcast from Dumfries and Galloway College. My name is Margaret McKay and I am the advisor for inclusion at the RSC SW Scotland. Today we are speaking to Stephen Shellard who is a lecturer in supported learning at Dumfries and Galloway College.

Stephen is going to talk about the ways he uses the Access/EduApps resources to enhance the delivery of learning and teaching with students on supported learning programmes

What tools have you been using? Can you explain what they do and why you have been using them?

I was interested initially in the idea of the memory stick and its use for individual students however as I familiarised myself with the applications I could see that there was a potential for use in the presentation of lessons especially in the context of supported learning. Interestingly the ones that jumped out at me were the simplest of the applications.

Using free applications for the delivery of teaching

Sonar

Essentially it is blue circle around mouse. If doing presentations it can be difficult to keep track of what is happening. Sonar is very useful for highlighting what is on the screen.

Vu Bar

This allows you to highlight a line of text (like a little box around the text on a screen). An example of where I have used this tool is when I am reviewing a webpage when working with a group of students and where reading skills are not that strong and I want students to read the text, I can put up the VU Bar and highlight the text I want them to focus on. You can change the colour of the text to ensure that there is adequate contrast between the reading tool and the colour of the webpage.

Magnifier

I increasingly realized that when you are looking at a webpage web page there may be little details you want to focus on or to zoom in on. If you are looking to emphasis only one part of the webpage or a specific part of a screen on a whiteboard you can do so with the magnifier application you can adapt the scale of magnification to suit different purposes.

Freemind Mind Mapping Software

Mind mapping was being pushed at me to some extent by other colleagues and I was not too sure about it, however when I saw Freemind I could see immediately how easy it was to get started on. I might use it to introduce a new topic in class. What I find with some of the groups I work with is if you ask for any ideas from students you receive a lot of (off the wall) non sequitirs, however you want to be positive about the type of ideas that people suggest and with Freemind I can generally find a place in the mind map for all of the the ideas that come in from the group and then as you develop the mind map, you can start to prioritise all the ideas that come in from those discussions. The nice is that at the end of the session you that you can print off the mind map and give to each student effectively a summary of what has taken place in the class.

Use of EduApps for staff Development - Cam Studio

I have used Cam Studio in the development of training for staff. For example where there are procedures on the computers at Dumfries and Galloway College that I think would be useful for staff in the college to be aware of. It is very easy to record a sequence that you may perform on your computer and effectively talk over this procedure whilst recording/ producing a short video of a few minutes. This is then made available on line for tutors to access. It is very simple tool to use, and easy to back if you make a false start but with not too much effort easy to make a clear demo which other lecturers can take advantage of.

What have you recorded using Cam Studio?

I've started using the VLE (Moodle) with supported learning programmes but because I am possibly more comfortable with this tool than some of the other lecturers, I am keen to share my knowledge with his colleagues. I have set up a Moodle course for tutors specifically for that purpose and I have incorporated some of the cam studio videos I have created into the Moodle environment. Some examples include how to upload materials to the Moodle VLE and how to insert a link to a website from Moodle.

The benefit of this is that colleagues can go back and review these instructions again and again. I was initially inspired by the video demonstrations or screenshots offered in Edu/AccessApps and felt that these were useful introductions to the applications on Edu/AccessApps videos.

Click n type keyboard

This is another useful application for working with students when I am using an interactive whiteboard. Often I try to get students to become actively involved in adding information to the screen, and frequently I ask them to enter text onto the interactive whiteboard. Using Click n Type is more engaging, and allows students to come up to the board and use the interactive whiteboard pen and the onscreen keyboard to add text. An example of this is when I am teaching students how to find images using Google image search. I get students

to open Google using onscreen keyboard and then ask them to enter key word to find images they are searching for.

Conclusion

We have seen a lot of examples of how learners have used EduApps applications and there is a real benefit here but it is also very interesting and really useful to hear how lecturers (not just those teaching supported learning programmes) and other staff across a college or university can use these tools in many other contexts too.