

Blue skies thinking: innovations in learning and teaching

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Abstract

One of the key paradoxes in education today is the mismatch between the potential of technologies to create innovative and pedagogical effective learning opportunities for students and their actual use in practice. If asked, teachers say they want ideas of how to use technology in their teaching and examples of good practice, however they make little or no use of the myriad of learning object/OER repositories and sites of good practice. Web 2.0 technologies are transforming the way people are finding and sharing information and the ways in which they are communicating and networking. Two initiatives at the Open University, UK are attempting to address these issues - the OU Learning Design Initiative (<http://ouldi.open.ac.uk>) and the Olnet network (<http://olnet.org>). The talk will highlight some of the key research activities arising from these projects; including the development of a new and innovative social networking site for learning and teaching, Cloudworks (<http://cloudworks.ac.uk>).