

Title: CPD: its value to professionals?

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Abstract:

The Law Society and British Computer Society (BCS) both possess long-standing Continuing Professional Development (CPD) schemes. In the case of law, it is necessary for solicitors to take part in the scheme in order to be allowed to practise. In the case of computing, contribution to the scheme attests to an individual's commitment to professional standards but is not required in order for that individual to perform in a senior IT-related role.

Accounts will be presented of how these schemes operate in both law and computing. The schemes will then be critiqued based on firstly the results of surveys to be conducted online to ascertain the views of members of both the Law Society and the BCS, and secondly from data from published sources. The surveys will seek to determine the value members place on CPD to maintain professional competence and skills, and discipline-related knowledge. These models of CPD will then be compared and contrasted with that of "professional review". The BCS is considering adopting the latter as a means of reaccrediting professional members of the society as competent to practise.

Discussion by seminar participants will focus on how the models of CPD and professional review presented could be applied to teaching in higher education.

References

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