

Title: Using free, web-based tools for collaborative elearning

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Abstract:

Session Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

- Describe a range of web tools and articulate how they might be used for collaborative learning.
- Outline the key factors for success in managing online collaborative learning activities.

Session Outline

Developments in web technology have allowed elearning to become about more than just transferring knowledge to learners. Tools such as wikis, blogs and Google Docs mean it is now much easier for a group of people to work together on collaborative learning activities.

However, there is a bewildering variety of collaborative tools on offer. How do you choose the right ones for your learners? More importantly, how do you make sure the technology enhances the learning rather than dictating how the learning happens?

Key issues to be addressed in this workshop are:

- The relative strengths of a number of collaborative tools including social bookmarking, group blogging, group writing and drawing tools and wikis.
- The risks and opportunities associated with using free web tools in education.
- Moderating online collaborative learning using Salmon's 5-step model (2000).

Session Activities and Approximate Timings

Presentation: Collaborative eLearning, some available tools (10 mins)

Discussion: Opportunities and risks in using these sorts of tools for elearning (7 mins)

Presentation: Moderating online learning (7mins)

Case Studies: Description of a number of cases where these technologies have been successfully deployed (10 mins)

Final Questions: including where to go for more information and ideas (10 mins)

References

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