Supporting educators’ digital competence development through a community initiative

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Céad míle fáilte

1. About DCU and the Teaching Enhancement Unit
2. Professional learning
3. MoodleMunch
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About DCU

• Situated primarily in north Dublin city:
  ~20,000 students, ~2,000 staff
• Five faculties: Humanities & Social Sciences, Engineering & Computing, Science & Health, Business, Education
• Moodle user for past 19 years
• Mahara user for past six years
Teaching Enhancement Unit

- The university’s centre for teaching and learning
- Constituent unit of National Institute for Digital Learning, a leader digital learning research and practice
- Supporting (mostly) on-campus teaching staff to develop teaching excellence
- Maintaining and developing the university’s ecosystem of learning technologies - Moodle at the heart
- Providing a variety of professional development to teaching staff
Learning in the 21st century

- Modes:
  - Formal learning
  - Non-formal learning
  - Informal learning
- Ubiquitous learning: facilitated with technology
- Pandemic and policy driving digitisation

- What about educators?
- How can their practice remain cutting edge?
DigCompEdu framework
Communities

Practice^3

• A group of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly
• Problem solving, seeking and sharing experience, discussing developments, mapping knowledge and identifying gaps

Interest^4

• Purpose is to be informed, and exhibit membership because of their interest in the topic
• Obtaining answers to questions or problems, improve understanding
Benefits of communities

- Useful for developing professional knowledge
- A profession: common traits, experiences, expertise
- Professional learning needs time, resources, preparation to give/receive support, learner’s own capacity to learn, linked to practice\(^5\)
- Communities can respond to the professional learning needs of its members quicker than formal learning providers
- Have burgeoned in recent time because of Covid and ability for swift response to needs\(^6\)
MoodleMunch

- Open-source community underpinning the Moodle project
- MoodleMoots - opportunities for learning
- Bridge a gap - continue learning between Moots
- Commenced planning in early 2020; have now run three series of events
- Reached out to institutions that used Moodle and the Irish National Forum for the Enhancement for Teaching and Learning
- Multi-channel promotion
Structure and approach

• Lunchtime webinar - food motif! - regular Tuesday slot during term time
• Register to attend via Zoom
• Two short presentations and Q&A/discussion
• Material circulated afterwards

• Linked to European Framework for the Digital Competence of Educators (DigCompEdu)
DigCompEdu framework
Topics to date

- Teaching with Moodle
- Universal design for learning
- H5P
- Assessments, incl. quizzes
- Reports
- Video
- Integrations and plugins
- Mahara
- Gamification
- Peer assessment
- Learning analytics

www.dcu.ie/moodlemunch
Community details

- Mainly Irish and British members
- Growing European and global membership
- Over 600 on mailing list at present
- Average 100 attend each webinar live
- Recordings and materials made available afterwards
Evaluation of series 3

- What is the impact of this community initiative?
- Series 3 concluded March 2022; evaluation issued later that month
- Approval received from DCU Research Ethics Committee
- Anonymous questionnaire, mostly Likert-scale questions with some open-ended questions
- Issued to 662 people; 148 respondents
- Response rate ~22%
Following the webinar was easy
Two-presentation structure was good
Presentations were relevant
I learned new things
My practice has improved
Given me access to resources to learn more
Helped me forge/strengthen relationships
I feel part of MoodleMunch community
Open-ended responses

What they want in future

• Learning analytics and reports
• Good course design and teaching approaches
• Site administration
• More on assessment
• More on UDL
• More on plugins and integrations

Other comments

• Bite-sized, focussed approach good
• Always learning something new
• Widening perspectives on Moodle usage
• Good for novice users to learn
The future

- Series 4 planning underway (October 2022—February 2023)
- Join our mailing list: bit.ly/moodlemunch-mailing
- Seeking expressions of interest: bit.ly/moodlemunch-eoi
- All MoodleMunch information/recordings/materials on website: www.dcu.ie/moodlemunch


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