

background



This project draws extensively on work carried out by the

TALISMAN project (Teaching and Learning in Scottish Metropolitan Area Networks). This staff development project has been funded by SHEFC since 1996 to provide training and awareness to academic and support staff across the 21 Higher Educations Institutions connected to the Scottish Metropolitan Area Networks (MANs).

<http://www.talisman.hw.ac.uk>

TALISMAN is based in the Institute for Computer Based Learning (ICBL) at Heriot-Watt University along with other Scottish, National and International projects investigating potential applications of learning technologies in Higher Education teaching with a special emphasis on open and distance learning. details of these projects are available from the ICBL WWW site.

<http://www.icbl.hw.ac.uk>

contact

If you wish to discuss any aspects of the project or issues arising from it, please feel free to contact us:

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information

If you would like further information on this project, including copies of the reports (as available) and information on workshops and courses, please visit our World Wide Web site:

<http://www.icbl.hw.ac.uk/jtap-573/>

funding

This project has been funded by JTAP (the JISC Technology Awareness Programme) which is an initiative of the Joint Information Systems Committee of the Higher Education Funding Councils.

<http://www.jtap.ac.uk>

The
Role
Of
VIRTUAL
LEARNING
ENVIRONMENTS
In
The
Online
Delivery
Of
Staff
Development

A JTAP Funded Project

the project

Within Higher Education, there is a recognised need for staff development and formalisation of skills, particularly with regard to Communications and Information Technology. Online delivery of staff development programmes is an attractive prospect providing flexibility, economy, standardisation, extensibility and opportunities for collaboration. Our experience with the TALiSMAN project shows that there are groups of staff for whom on-line access is appropriate but to get material used it has to be designed and delivered appropriately. The growing availability of Virtual Learning Environments is one means to assist this process.

This project will review our own experience of delivering staff development programmes online and identify and investigate key issues for attention.

<http://www.icbl.hw.ac.uk/jtap-573/>

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report

The main deliverable of this project will be a report, delivered in two parts.

1 The first part of the report (currently available from the project web site) reviews the two complementary approaches which TALiSMAN has followed to deliver staff development courses online to almost 700 staff throughout Scottish Higher Education. The report draws on evaluation data and our personal experiences to highlight the important issues we identified.

2 The second part of the report shall extend on these issues and include guidelines for the delivery of staff development online, whilst reviewing the suitability and potential of a number of commercial and freely available Virtual Learning Environments for the delivery of online staff development programmes.

<http://www.icbl.hw.ac.uk/jtap-573>

workshop

The reports of this project will highlight a number of issues surrounding the use of networks for the delivery of staff development. Two workshops addressing these issues will be held around Easter 1999. Details will be posted on the project Web site and advertised prior to the event. The outcomes from these workshops will be made available for electronic access after the event.

online course

For the completion of this project, appropriate materials will be packaged as an exemplar course to draw out the features of this form of delivery. The course will be made accessible to the sector as a whole.

web site

The project web site will act as a repository for the reports produced by the project, will provide access to a number of relevant resources and will provide up to date information about the progress of the project.