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February issue

Issue 21, February 2015

A monthly newsletter for UCL E-Learning Champions in four sections: **Need To Know**, **Learning**, **What's on**, and **Tech Focus**. Please pass around and ask colleagues to subscribe via the link at the bottom.

Need to know

Shape UCL's new educational media service

ISD is undertaking a scoping review to inform the design of a new educational media service. The review will involve structured interviews with academics and colleagues who are already developing video and audio-based media for blended and distance learning, for example for flipping part of their modules. We are also very interested speaking with anyone who is asking students to produce video or audio (e.g. podcasts) for assessment. Please contact c.p.l.young@ucl.ac.uk

End wading through Moodle

If you're finding it hard to make anything stand out on your Moodle area, then do enable your course area's **Activities block**. The Activities block lets participants view the contents of a Moodle area by type e.g. Assignments, Quizzes, &c. Enable this via the Add a block menu and drag it somewhere your students and colleagues will discover it. The Activities block can't substitute for good design though - lynda.com's [User Experience Fundamentals for Web Design](#), free to UCL people, is a good introduction to these principles and practices.

New Moodle things

ELE keeps a record of these [new Moodle features in the Moodle Resource Centre](#).
New last upgrade: reading lists and subsections of reading lists can now be embedded in the main sections of a Moodle course area (rather than being stuck in the sidebar as before); if you're working with software code the GeSHi syntax highlighter will help make sense of it.

Learning

The HASTAC Pedagogy Project

HASTAC is "an alliance of more than 13,000 [mostly North American] humanists, artists, social scientists, scientists and technologists working together to transform the future of learning". The [Pedagogy Project](#):

"started when several professors asked for specific suggestions on digital or collaborative projects they could do with their students. We asked the HASTAC Scholars to provide specific assignments, in-class exercises and other projects. The response was awesome - over 80 specific and proven suggestions to shake up your syllabus!

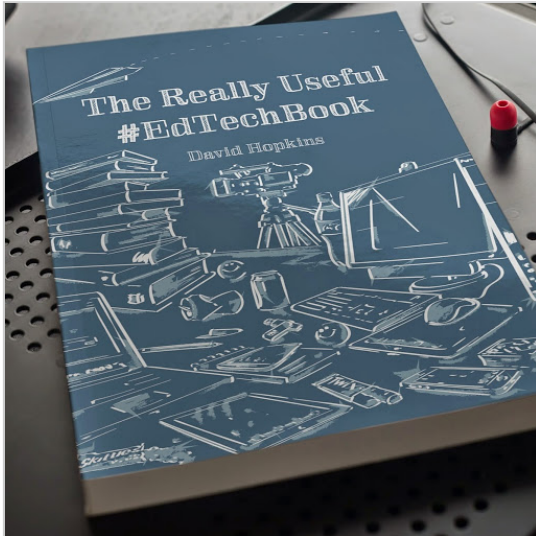
The Pedagogy Project is organized into nine sections, with numerous examples of projects, assignments and concepts in each area. Many of the projects overlap into different sections, so take some time to explore each of them!"

[More about HASTAC...](#)

Typology of Web 2.0 tools

Every so often somebody does the educational world the service of providing an updated mapping of Web 2.0 tools to educational pursuits. Here's [Matt Bower's for Educause \(PDF format\)](#). After relating 14 broad purposes to 37 families of tools, he then drills down to introduce 212 technologies. These include tools for social reading and annotation, a host of online whiteboards, diagramming, and multimedia forums. ELE will gratefully receive your reviews of any of these tools - please keep in touch.





['The Really Useful #edtechbook'](#) "draws together a useful, diverse, eclectic set of visions and commentaries that together provide the reader with a lucid and comprehensive vista of educational technology. It traces the history of learning technology, catalogues the present state of play, and envisages the future".

It's available as a free download (scroll down the page linked above and below).

[More about the book...](#)

E-Learning Case Study

CALT have been using Moodle Workshop in the Arena Teaching Associate Programme. Now on its second iteration, here's what we know so far.

[More on the Case Study...](#)



A connected, research-based education is at the core of UCL 2034, our 20-year strategy.

To understand our current position, we want to ask you a few questions to see how current practice at UCL links research and education. This survey consists of six primary questions based on overlapping areas of research and education at UCL

[Take part in the survey](#)

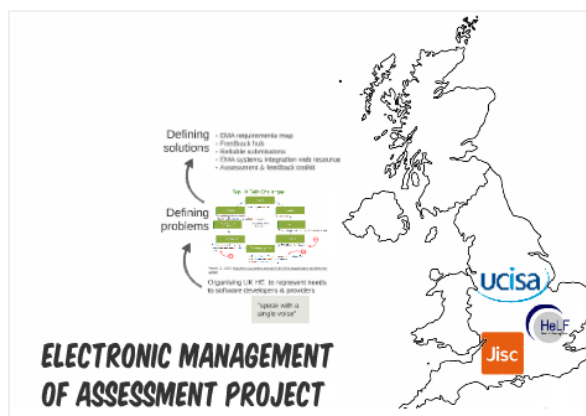
It is expected this survey will take less than 10 minutes to complete. All responses are anonymous.

What's on (and what's gone...)

E-assessment - final chance to have your national say

Jisc has been consulting the HE community - initially to generate priorities and latterly to ask us vote on its proposed solutions.

[Have your say on e-Assessment.](#)



UCL Arena Digital

Improve your Moodle skills and enhance your online/blended teaching by taking part in UCL Arena Digital.

UCL Arena Digital is a free online course for all staff at UCL.

The course is fully online and will take only 2-3 hours of your week. Unit 1 starts Monday 2nd March 2015. [Enrol now.](#)

[More about Arena Digital.](#)

Engineering Education Seminar Series

Engineering Education Seminar Series have taken over the running of the "Academic Best Practice" sessions, re-naming them the "Engineering Education Seminar Series".

Future dates for the diary:

- Wednesday 25th February 1pm - Roberts 421
- Wednesday 25th March 1pm - Roberts 508

[More about the seminar series...](#)

Summits and Horizons

These sessions are on Mondays, 13.00-14.00, open to all UCL staff and take place in the UCL Arena Room, 1-19 Torrington Place.

Upcoming sessions:

- 16th March 2015 - E-learning and modern languages. With Esther Tarsoly, SSEES
- 11th May 2015 - Peermark. With Lawrence Bellamy, Biosciences
- 8th June 2015 - E-learning for formative assessment. With Alex Murray , Bartlett

[Find out more about Summits & Horizons...](#)

Learning Technologies conference

Many of the conference presentations from the Learning Technologies conference held on 28-29 January at Olympia central, London are available online.

[Watch the presentations here...](#)

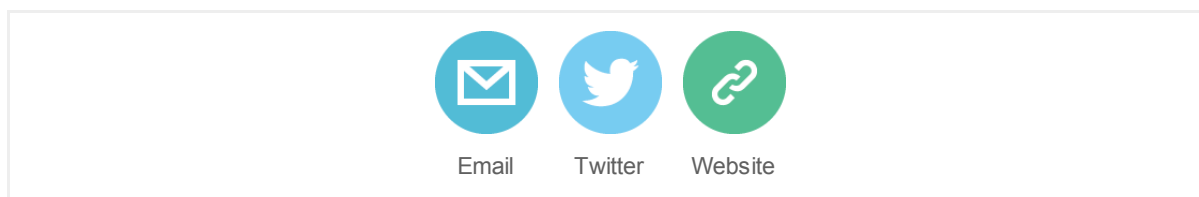
Tech focus

Did you know...?

You can now include [automatically-generated reading list content](#) directly in the central sections of your Moodle course (rather than stuck in a sidebar, as before).

Image credits

Playing with blue fire. Photo credit: [_Zeta_](#) via [photopin cc](#)



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