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## Hello E-Learning Champions

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Issue 17, October 2014

A monthly newsletter for UCL E-Learning Champions about learning technology related events and developments. Please encourage interested colleagues to subscribe via the link at the bottom.

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### Need to know

#### **Birkbeck room booking need-to-know**

Using teaching spaces in Birkbeck? On the ISD Staff pages (Academic support section) you can find [guidance for UCL staff](#) [PDF] on room location, software availability, printing, tech support and more. Please note differences in software availability.

### Learning

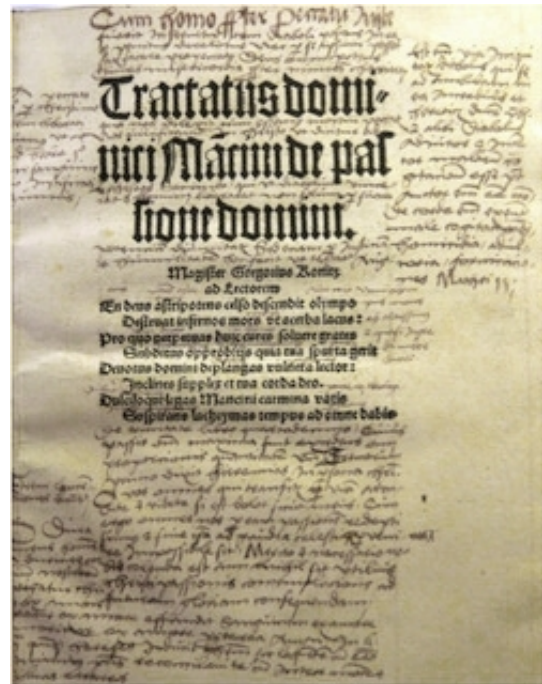
#### **Silent students?**

To complement your in-class activities, some technology-enabled ideas for helping students to prepare and contribute. [Find out more...](#)

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### **Backchannels to the front**

Pieter Tiernan at Dublin City University [introduced Twitter](#) as a voluntary audience response system, to increase student interaction in large group settings. By designing in opportunities for discussion and providing alternative ways to contribute (speaking or tweeting) hitherto silent students began to contribute. Whether or not students participated via Twitter they overwhelmingly felt it had a positive impact on the sense of community and helped to reduce communication barriers.



Other conversation platforms are available - for example this educator has [blogged his experiences](#) with [TodaysMeet](#).

photo credit: [Provenance Online Project](#) via [photopin cc](#)

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## E-Learning Case Study

The Turnitin PeerMark **peer assessment** tool is coming soon to UCL, so here are two peer assessment case studies from [Eva Sorensen](#) (Chemical Engineering) and [Richard Milne](#) (Centre for Virology).

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[Sign up to the UCL Teaching and Learning newsletter](#) to read news, features, practical information and a column by the Vice-Provost (Education).

What's on?

A month until UCL digifest and preparations are hotting up. The four festival themes are



1. Activism | Politics | Ethics |  
Citizenship | Privacy | Security
2. Making | Sharing | Collaboration |  
Creative Commons
3. Digital Identity | Digital  
Professionalism | Digital Footprint
4. Learning Technology | Future  
University

Keep an eye on the [schedule](#) as it firms up and watch the trailers on [digifest TV](#).

## Distance Learning and Life Learning event:

### ***Identifying your market - 'tips and tools'***

On Wednesday 5th November E-Learning Environments and the UCL Enterprise Life Learning team will be running the first Forum event of the year. Split into three parts the event will comprise:

1. Updates on Life Learning and [UCLeXtend](#)
2. 'How to get the most out of Google tools and insights' - Richard Robinson, a Director at Google
3. A group-based workshop related to identifying your market.

If you're interested in coming please sign up via [Eventbrite](#).

## **JISC Netskills E-learning Essentials BTEC Certificate (3 day workshop)**

Recently two UCL staff from Management Science and Innovation (MS&I) attended a JISC workshop that covers learning theories and shows how technology can be usefully applied in practice using Scenario based learning methods. Matt Smith is the Learning Technologist for MS&I and came away with useful ideas that he has been able to share with his colleagues to develop technology-rich, scenario-based learning.

The 3 day workshop they is called E-learning Essentials and upon completion participants receive a BTEC Certificate. "[It] teaches comprehensive techniques, methodologies and tools to enable you to confidently design, develop, assess and evaluate e-learning" (JISC NetSkills 2014). The next workshop runs from 25th - 27th November 2014 at Euston House, London.

[Read more and sign up here...](#)



The third EduWiki Conference, Friday 31st October at the University of Edinburgh. EduWiki brings together educators (usually from Higher Education) and the Wikimedia community to talk about how Wikipedia and its sister projects can be used to support education. [Find out more...](#)

## Tech focus

### Coming soon - Turnitin PeerMark

On the 14th October the new Moodle Turnitin assignment will be made live on UCL Moodle. This new integration brings with it the PeerMark functionality.

PeerMark is the new peer review assignment tool. Instructors can create and manage PeerMark assignments that allow students to read, review, and evaluate one or many papers submitted by their classmates. With the advanced options in PeerMark, instructors can choose whether the reviews are anonymous or attributed, decide if students should be excluded from reviews, or pair students to assign students specific papers to view.

In preparation for this new functionality E-Learning Environments are offering three 1 hour training sessions on PeerMark. The sessions will be on:

- 20th Oct 12:00 - 13:00
- 28th Oct 12:00 - 12:30:00
- 7th Nov 11:00 - 12:00

Please see this link for further details and booking instructions.

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/isd/staff/e-learning/training/OverviewofPeermark>

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## Did you know?

You can now move elements between topics in Moodle by single clicking on the cross hairs move icon rather than dragging and dropping. A pop-up list of places to move that item to will appear when you click. Unfortunately this will not work for Moodle courses using tabs format, as you will have to revert to topics format to move activities and resources between topic areas.

[Find out more...](#)

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## Lynda.com is now available at UCL

UCL is currently trialling Lynda.com for 12 months. Depending on the uptake this may be extended.

Lynda.com contains online resources to help you improve your software, technology, business and creative skills. It can be used for staff development, or to help your students learn new skills.

[Find out more...](#)

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