Skills Hub: user attitudes and new directions
Georgina Dimmock and Jonas House

Abstract

The Skills Hub (http://skillshub.northampton.ac.uk) is a repository of open educational resources (OERs) for students, schools, researchers and the community, which aims to develop users’ study skills. Initial development of the Skills Hub began back in May 2012 and it was launched by Library and Learning Services in September 2013. The Skills Hub provides support to users, but also, through the use of the website’s learning analytics, it provides us with an observatory on user behaviour. In December 2013, University funding was awarded for the Skills Hub: Review, Redesign and Rebuild (http://skillsinnovation.wordpress.com) project to evaluate the Skills Hub content and enable further development. This presentation details the methodology and findings of this project.

To enable the evaluation and to aid the data collection, a blog specially designed as a research tool was developed. A pool of respondents was recruited, which contained a range of users (undergraduates, postgraduates, international students, schools teachers and sixth formers). Respondents were asked to use and evaluate a range of Skills Hub OERs and to record their comments on the blog. Qualitative data analysis was conducted on the user comments (c.350), alongside the Skills Hub’s built-in learning analytics, in order to determine trends in usage, preferences and perceptions of the materials. This presentation highlights notable data arising from the research and makes recommendations for future development of the Skills Hub, as well as identifying areas in need of further research.

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Dissemination