Open Mobile: institutional responses to mobile learner support

Responding to students already accessing mobile portals – e.g. The Open University (OU) StudentHome mobile:

- 25K individuals accessed via mobile in the last quarter,
- 13K in a month, indicating repeat visits and also new visitors.

High usage of the mobile-optimised version persists, some switching to full-size version once autodetection put in place July ’08.

Surveying students to explore preferences in choice of course-related tools and in studying while mobile.

5-star rating of course website features to optimise for mobile – provided by 196 self-selected survey respondents in Aug ’09.

Wireframe and initial design around ‘study planner’ also for keeping up with course and forum messages. Tasks can be ticked off as complete and resources accessed.

Generating a roadmap of developments to optimise website content and collaborative tools. Moving from beta to supported version as well as adapting towards Moodle v2.x

See also: www.open.ac.uk/blogs/mLearn

Exploring further prospective use of apps for learning (Oct ’10 survey), following some prototyping and also public engagement iOS apps by our Mobile Innovations Group:

projects.kmi.open.ac.uk/mobiles

Other apps include looking at content packages and synchronising these offline, incorporating audiovisual material.

Parallel work also underway on enhanced ePUB eBooks.

Combining mobile approaches to other learning and teaching tools, for example – audio eAssessment using Learnosity Voice Response systems – web, phone, Skype, mobile voice and apps.

Looking to enable user-generated content in fieldwork and practice-based subjects through use of intermediate cloud services such as those provided by Google, Qik, Flickr.

See: learnosity.com

Establishing a coordination website to share internal practice and also disseminate project work. This builds on work undertaken by our Institute of Educational Technology with regard to Educational and Professional Development, alongside Teaching and Learning guides, also covering Mobile Learning.

To find out more, go to www.open.ac.uk/mobisite

Rhodri Thomas | Senior Project Manager, Learning Innovation | Rhodri.Thomas@open.ac.uk