

# Student Engagement

## A WebLearn and RLOs showcase

Production Team:  
Debbie Holley – RLO CETL, LMBS  
Amanda Wilson Kennard – TLTC  
Mimi Weiss – TLTC  
Carl Smith – CETL Developer

## Student Engagement

- Background information: Why use WebLearn?
- Examples of engaging students with WebLearn (including RLOs)
- Results

## Background Information: Why use WebLearn?

## Context of London Met

- Widening participation university
- Non-standard entry students
- Inner city location
- Commuter students




London Metropolitan University

## The course

- International Purchasing
- Part-time professional students
- Full-time degree students
- Professional body accreditation


## Module Requirements

- Required by professional body
  - Exam
  - Coursework
- Continuous assessment
  - Additional weekly engagement
  - Monitoring progress – self and lecturer
  - Confidence building



## Problems to solve

- Limited opportunity for peer to peer communication
- Not enough student practice and retention with module material




## Constraints


- Must work with large groups of students
- Must be manageable for the students
- Must not increase the marking load



## Solutions for engaging the students with WebLearn?





- Problem to solve
  - Lack of peer-to-peer communication
- WebLearn Solution
  - Discussion tool in WebLearn



## Discussion Tool

- Asynchronous weekly tasks
  - Responses to tutor 'starter' post and another students post
- Benefit
  - Students communicate with peers outside of the classroom

## How can you do this?

- You can easily create discussions yourself in WebLearn.
- Please come to a TLTC training session entitled:
  - **Creating Online Discussions and Chats**
  - <http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/tltc/>

- Problem to solve
  - Lack of student practice and material retention
- WebLearn Solutions
  - Solution 1: Self marking quizzes
  - Solution 2: Reusable learning objects

### Solution 1: Self marking quizzes

- Text based quizzes
  - Questions based on student's research
- Multiple Choice
  - Mark for attempt (language problem concern of some students)
- These are automatically graded
- Benefit
  - Students engage with the material
  - Students get automatic feedback and grades

### How can I do this?

- You can easily create quizzes, self-tests or surveys yourself in WebLearn.
- Please come to a TLTC training session entitled:
  - **Building Online Quizzes, Surveys and Self Tests**
  - <http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/tltc/>

### Solution 2: Reusable Learning Object (RLO)

- What is a RLO?
  - Ready made online tutorial
    - Combining: Audio, Video, Text, Images etc...
    - Self-paced online learning 24/7
  - Each focusing on one clear learning goal
  - Free and easy to use and distribute
  - Option for automatic grading
  - <http://www.rlo-cetl.ac.uk>
- Benefit
  - Enables students to engage with the material and retain information
  - Students can get automatic grades

### RLO Activities

- Can contain a variety of activities:
  - Case studies
  - Quizzes
  - Games
  - Puzzles
  - Tutorials
- These interactive resources can include:
  - Text
  - Images
  - Audio and video

### Reusable Learning Objects

- Example of RLO learning object as a weekly task
  - Shopping basket price comparison of fair-trade goods



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### Example of a game developed by TLTC

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### Example of a game developed by TLTC

**INCOCHALLENGE** Problem based learning multi-media quiz Debbie Holley & Richard Haynes.

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### Example of a game developed by TLTC

- A fun element to assessment
- The boat sails on if they get the scenario correct
- Hints and tips if a wrong answer

Students find out if their journey is successful....

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### How can I get a RLO?

1. Use a ready made RLO from the website
  - <http://www.rlo-cetl.ac.uk>
2. Request a custom made RLO
  - <http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/tltc>

- Look at the TLTC showcase for ideas or bring your own ideas to the approachable TLTC developers.

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### Use a pre-made RLOs

- London Metropolitan University with its partners, the University of Cambridge and University of Nottingham have launched
  - The Centre for Excellence in Teaching in Learning (CETL) who specialise in Reusable Learning Objects (RLO).
- CETL have created many pre-made RLOs that are free and easy to add to your WebLearn modules.
  - [www.rlo-cetl.ac.uk](http://www.rlo-cetl.ac.uk)

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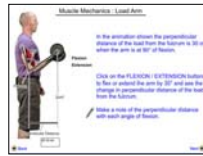
### RLO Subjects

- Study Skills
- Maths
- Business

## RLO Subjects



- Marketing
- Science
- Languages



## Student Opinions



- **Discussions**
  - "I found the online tasks great - to me it did not feel like I was completing work but more of a fun activity among friends."
- **Quizzes**
  - "So far, it is the most fun assessment I've done @ like those online quizzes a lot"
  - "I do like the idea of weekly quizzes. I think that this is a good re-cap for the lecture and helps memorise facts."

## Adding it to WebLearn



- Adding a ready made RLO to WebLearn
  - Copy and paste the link into a WebLearn link

## Getting your own RLO



- The Multimedia Developers at TLTC can create bespoke RLOs for you.
- How?
  - You think of an idea for a resource
  - Discuss your ideas with a multimedia developer at TLTC
  - They create the resource for you for free
  - Add a link to the resource in your module
- <http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/tltc/>

## Results



## Student Opinions



- RLOs
  - 'I think the online marks were very useful and I loved all different tasks'
  - 'I like the weekly task because it keeps me engaged to the subject, so I believe I learn more..'

## Overall Evaluation



- Students liked it
- Students got more involved in peer-to-peer communication
- It encouraged engagement
- Some students wanted qualitative judgemental assessment – conflict with aims
- New arrangements of time and space of study

## Useful Links



- Ready made RLO's
  - <http://www.rlo-cetl.ac.uk>
- TLTC for Multimedia and WebLearn information
  - <http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/tltc/>
- Write Now CETL
  - <http://www.writenow.ac.uk/>
- Learn Higher CETL
  - <http://www.learnhigher.ac.uk/>
- Liaise with your subject centre for other resources and ideas for funding