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Stimulating student learning when visual is King: Learnmore at City University

Emily Allbon - Law Librarian - City University London
twitter.com/lawbore

At City



What are we facing?

LALALALALA...
I'm not interested
in any of this library
stuff!



Better and targeted research



- ▶ Search engine holding all the answers?
- ▶ Surface learning
- ▶ Internet stealing away our capacity to concentrate
- ▶ Spence (2004) *‘we’re on the web all the time. We can find the information we need’*



The big challenge: engaging students



- ▶ Independent learners
- ▶ Legal skills are fundamental to making great lawyers
- ▶ Inform how they adapt to substantive law teaching
- ▶ Lifelong and deep learning



Existing problems for engagement

- ▶ Skills gap A-levels to degree
 - ▶ Lecture/tutorial model
- ▶ Managing student expectation
 - ▶ Subject can be dull!

MIND THE GAP



So what did our resource have to be/do?



- ▶ **Resource-based**
- ▶ **Focused around the students**
- ▶ **Available 24/7**
- ▶ **Promote independence and academic confidence**
- ▶ **Embedding real-life – learning through practice**
- ▶ **Lots of multimedia**

Visual = King

- ▶ Connected world in which our students reside
- ▶ Has to look good or no-one will care about the content



What do the students think about Learnmore as a learning resource?

'It helps to have lots of different types of resources to learn from, not being reliant on always learning by reading!'

'Different resources – online tutorials, slideshows and videos – present the information in a fun and stimulating way...'

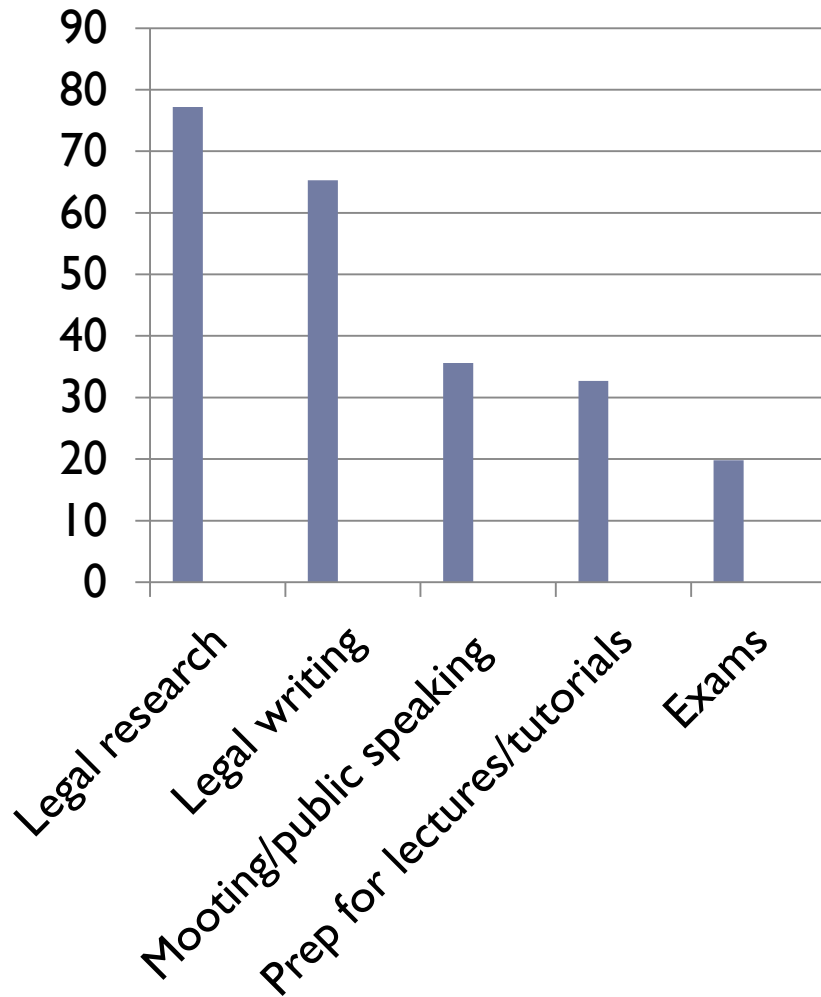
'It gets intense going through textbooks as reading can become a chore – nice to have something to lighten it'

'Suits different people and how they study'

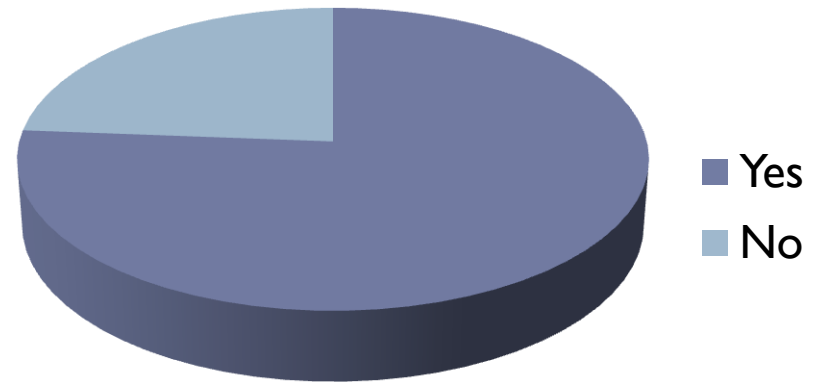




What do the students think are the most important legal skills?



Do multimedia resources enhance your learning experience?



Why does multimedia help?

- ▶ *I'm that type of learner/everyone learns by different methods – closes the learning gap*
 - ▶ *More interesting medium*
 - ▶ *Get the chance to watch it again*
 - ▶ *More fun to work so I concentrate more/get us students working with a greater passion*
 - ▶ *Makes it stick more in my mind/ideal for people who are more 'hands-on'*
 - ▶ *Able to visually see things*
 - ▶ *Variety of resources is refreshing, not dull and boring like a book*
 - ▶ *Breaks up lectures/visuals can be beneficial from the daily monotonous lecturers talking*
-



What methods did we chose...



The screenshot shows a video player interface. The main video area displays a presentation slide with a floral background and a white rectangular box containing the text "CHANGE IS THE ONLY CONSTANT" in a hand-drawn, black, uppercase font. The slide is labeled "Slide 2 / 18 | Playing" at the bottom. The video player controls at the bottom include a play button, a progress bar showing "00:03 / 00:28", and a volume icon.

On the right side of the video player, there is a sidebar with the title "Keeping up to date with Law". It features a profile picture of Emily Allbon, a Law Librarian, and a "Bio | Contact" link. Below this is a "LEARNMORE" logo with the tagline "EXPAND YOUR CURRICULUM".

Below the profile information is a table with four columns: "Outline", "Thumb", "Notes", and "Search". The table lists various topics and their durations:

Outline	Thumb	Notes	Search
Slide Title			Duration
Keeping up to date wi...			00:02
► Change is the only co...			00:28
Websites			00:12
Guardian Law			00:25
To tweet or not to twe...			01:23
Here's a taster of typ...			00:19
What does a twitter s...			00:41
Blogs			01:27
Specific blogs			00:31
More on blogs			00:15
RSS			00:44

At the bottom of the sidebar, it says "7 Minutes 52 Seconds Remaining".

Research on Learnmore



Peer learning

- ▶ 71% of LLB students surveyed - value mix of advice from lecturers and other students



Law profs....yawn...

- ▶ “Law professors’ personal stories about *‘how I learned it’* –somewhat meaningless and antiquated...Novice peers, are perfect mirrors to help each other reflect and regulate law student learning” (Herndon, 2010)

And then in
1974...



=



“Felt inspired by reading about what others in our position have achieved”



Questions?



References

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http://www.wired.com/magazine/2010/05/ff_nicholas_carr/all/1
- ▶ Claydon, Lisa (2009) Engaging and motivating student: assessment to aid student learning on a first year core law module, *The Law Teacher* 43(3)(Dec) p.269-283
- ▶ Herndon, Lynn C. (2010) Help you, help me: why law students need peer teaching *UMKC L. Rev*, 78, p.809
- ▶ Nicholas, David and Rowlands, Ian (2008) Information Behaviour of the Researcher of the Future, <http://www.bl.uk/news/pdf/googlegen.pdf>
- ▶ Spence, Larry (2004) The usual doesn't work: why we need problem-based learning *portal:Libraries and the Academy* 4(4) p.485-493



Credits

- ▶ Slide 1: *'Eyes are the mirror of the soul'* by rAmmoRRison
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/rammorrison/4704353204/>
 - ▶ Slide 3: *'Lalala...I don't wanna hear this!'* By hebedesign
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/hebe/2512086374/>
 - ▶ Slide 4: *'The brain typography'* by labguest
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/labguest/3302264930/>
 - ▶ Slide 5: – *'put your hand up if you're having a good time'* by vern
http://www.flickr.com/photos/mic_n_2_sugars/564570276/
 - ▶ Slide 6: *'mind the gap'* by limaoscarjuliet
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/limaoscarjuliet/3305886294/>
 - ▶ Slide 7: *'Laptop'* by sp3ccylad
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/sp3ccylad/497684709/>
-



Credits

- ▶ Slide 8: *'king club'* by oknovokght
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/oknovokght/2189461072/>
- ▶ Slide 15: from Big Walk on Water website
<http://bigwalkonwater.wordpress.com/2008/09/>
- ▶ Slide 16: *'Professor Finger Puppet'* by abbey*christine
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/abbeychristine/2111324084/>
and *'The famous yawn - cc licence'* by Hilary Quinn
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/hilaryaq/3435257717/>
- ▶ Slide 18: *'Questions'* by Marcus Ramberg
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/marcusramberg/185508448/>

