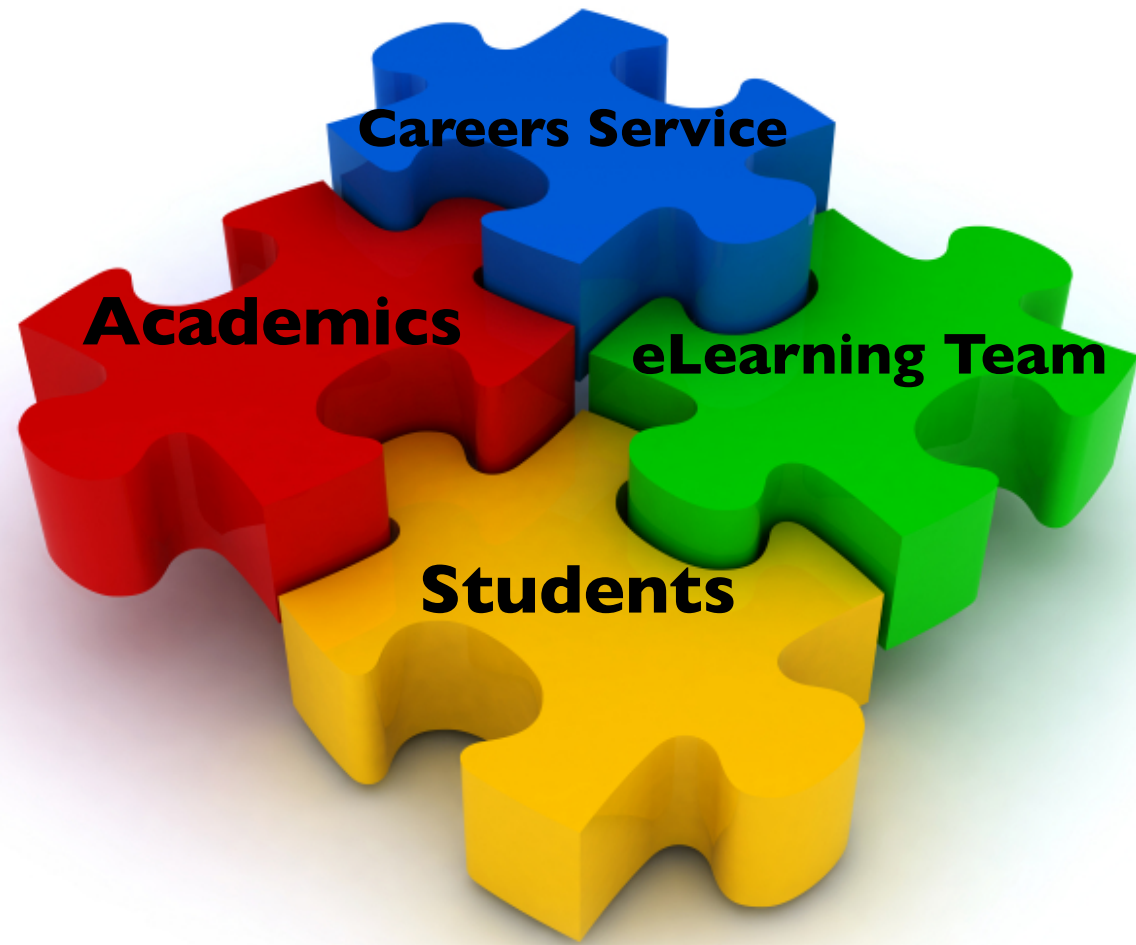


Rethinking the employability agenda through technology

Filippo Nereo
HEA / Manchester

Rethinking the employability agenda through technology

- Change, uncertainty, and the ‘student experience’
- New fees regime is likely to:
 - Increase expectations of ‘value for money’ and graduate employability
 - Trigger a demand for more flexibility in unit delivery and assessment
- Focus on enterprise: White Paper, Wilson Review



Careers Service

Academics

eLearning Team

Students

Design and delivery

Innovative Approaches to German as a Foreign Language

- Interaction with teachers and learners,
Project Rationale and Plan, linguistics
- eTool Development
- Assessment
 - Reflective log entries (individually)
 - Poster and oral presentation (group)
 - End-of-project report (group)

Journal Entry X

Posted by [REDACTED] 12:20:37 o'clock BST

Which activities did you find most enjoyable and why?

First and definitely team work in general. Starting with a mixture of fear and excitement about it, I have later found myself enjoying our meetings, as well as communication and presenting of our work to other people. The last one of these probably the most of all. Usually I am nervous before and during delivering presentations, but this time, in both weeks five and ten, I really enjoyed it (to my own surprise). I ascribe this to the 'we're in this together' factor. The work each of us carried out separately was done having in mind that this was for all of us. In the same manner we also stood before our audience—the specialists and examiners, each of us representing not him/herself but the whole team and its work. What I really enjoyed was the way we complemented each other spontaneously and swiftly when asked questions relating to the project and our method of work. It was much less stressful than when giving presentation as an only person. When a question was asked, there were more heads to think, which gave each of us time to organize our own idea while another teammate was speaking, or to build up on his/ her answer. It was a good feeling, listening carefully to what the others had to say and sensing out in their speech whenever they were running out of words or not knowing how to conclude, and taking over. And of course vice versa—knowing there was always somebody to jump in and 'save the day'.

Other than that I liked learning quite thoroughly about a new aspect of German, together with working on the actual e-tool. Especially searching through tens of German films, listening carefully for when a modal particle would be used. I have found a number of interesting German films of which I did not know before and which I am going to watch in my sparetime.

E

I feel that the most important thing that I have learnt in this module is how to work as a team and manage a project effectively. Throughout, the project all of our skills have also been enhanced and new ones have been added for example; technical skills, communication, teamwork and time management. These are all important skills that an employer looks for and now I feel we fully possess these abilities.

S

If we had the opportunity to do this project again, I think we would utilise our time more efficiently as this is a skill we have developed throughout the project and it is something that we found hindered our development and progress. I also think we would consider using different software to make our E-tool. We chose Glomaker as it was simple to use and therefore, we felt we could create something easily and that this simplicity would be transferred to the user as they used it. However, in reality we found many limitations to the software. The main limitation for our personal objectives and aims was that Glomaker does not allow for more complex designs for example in terms of aesthetics. We found that we could only have one page colour and a handful of fonts. This obviously impacted on our E-tool as we really wanted it to be colourful and different.

,
?

E

. This week we presented our products and posters to a number of lecturers, academics and e-learning specialists. I found this task one of the most enjoyable activities throughout the course. This is because public speaking is something I really enjoy. I also found that presenting to a different audience other than our peers was fantastic as it gave us practise for when we enter our careers. The poster session also enabled us to 'mingle' with professionals, which perhaps none of us had got to do before. I also enjoyed talking about the project and answering their questions because as a group we were proud of what we had achieved and this showed us that others were also impressed.

The other activity that I enjoyed is creating the E-tool itself, mainly because I enjoy practical projects and I find this is something that many modules do not offer. I loved learning something new and developing my skills to a level, in which I would now be confident to explain to another student how to use glomaker and create an E-tool.

Evaluation and prospects

- <http://bit.ly/glogerman>
- Ideas for future:
 - Students develop an app?
 - 2-semester unit, integration with iTunes, support for students to market the app?

Thank you!

- Filippo.Nereo@heacademy.ac.uk
- www.heacademy.ac.uk