

The UK Centre for Bioscience recognises and appreciates the current growth and expansion of Web2.0 technologies, both in diversity and usage. In an attempt to better understand the impact of Web2.0 tools on all teaching and learning in the biosciences, the Centre, in collaboration with a very active Web2.0 community at the University of Leicester, hosted an event to address a variety of issues on the theme. How can a bioscientist navigate the technologies of Web2.0 and why should they bother? Examples of Web2.0 tools used to enhance student learning or academic scholarship were explored and shared throughout the day with the aim of highlighting useful approaches. We originally hoped to attract the novice to moderate user, but much to our surprise we had a pool of experts in attendance who generously shared their experiences with Web2.0 tools. Throughout the day delegates tweeted on Twitter at #CfBweb2 and can now be viewed at <http://twapperkeeper.com/CfBweb2/>.



The Centre provides a pilot social networking site, the UK Centre for Bioscience Pilot Social network (<http://heabio.ning.com/>), to explore the potential of using Web2.0 with academics in bioscience education in UK HE.

What delegates had to say:

'...considerable enlightenment provided both in terms of the technical use of the tools and **potential integration** in practice.'

'...found that all the material was **invaluable**.'

'A **productive and illuminating** experience - I emerged with a **more positive perspective** of the potential of Web2.0 tools in L&T.'

### Overview

Terry McAndrew, UK Centre for Bioscience, provided a very brief foundation on Web2.0 tools in order to allow the delegates the opportunity to explore current Web2.0 technologies. He reiterated the intent of the workshop was to allow individuals to connect with relevant and interesting tools to the academic in order for the Centre to better understand the needs of an 'Academic 2.0'.

### Workshop: Using Web 2.0 tools

Terry McAndrew, UK Centre for Bioscience, Jo Badge and Alan Cann (via twitter), University of Leicester, assisted delegates with exploration around a focused list of Web2.0 tools as outlined in a

Google Docs document 'Exploring Web2.0 Technologies as a Beginner' or 'Exploring Web2.0 Technologies as an Expert'

([tinyurl.com/cfbweb2doc](http://tinyurl.com/cfbweb2doc)). The guidelines were loosely based on the

JISC Web2practice Guide (<http://web2practice.jiscinvolve.org/>) based on 5 different sections of: Microblogging (Blogs), Collaborative Writing, RSS (tagging/aggregation tools), Podcasting (media tools), & Social Media (networking). By working through these 5 areas it was hoped the delegates would gain enough experience to continue their practice of the tool either in their own personal or academic role.

Inherent within the design of the activities was for delegates to actively contribute their own experiences during the day via appropriate Web2.0 tools.



If you are the least bit interested in starting with your own experiences with Web2.0 tools, we would suggest reading the opinions & suggestions from our delegates who have been there. They contributed to the Google Doc 'Exploring Web2.0 Technologies as an Expert.'

### **'CiteULike: a popular web tool for saving, sharing and discovering scholarly papers'**

In this session in conjunction with the University of Leicester's College of Medicine, Biological Sciences and Psychology lunchtime seminar series, Kevin Emamy from CiteULike [www.citeulike.org/](http://www.citeulike.org/) shared his product and its application for academics. He shared the analogy of using CiteULike to going into someone's personal library and browsing all the titles/books. Overall the audience was very receptive to CiteULike appreciating its advantages it has for academics.

Following Kevin's presentation Jo Badge shared the 'Innovations at Leicester: 'The eLearning in Leicester CiteULike Group' and for Alan Cann: 'Running Online Journal Clubs in CiteULike' providing the delegates with relevant examples of using CiteULike with students.

### **DEL project outcomes, Terry McAndrew, UK Centre for Bioscience**

Terry provided the delegates with an overview and report on the DEL (Distributed e-Learning) Phase 1 and 2 outcomes. Phase 1 was of interest to the bioscience community but uptake was small. A themed edition of the Centre's newsletter the Bulletin in Autumn 2006 on [e-Learning](#), was one outcome. Phase 2 outcomes which included a series of mini-projects were published in a Centre report, [Approaches to e-Learning Development in Bioscience](#). Collaboration at the time was very strong in an age pre-Web2.0. Terry wondered what the community would be like in the present world of Web2.0. Delegates shared their opinions with programmes such as these. In the present culture of needing to justify and substantiate one's work, it is difficult to dedicate time towards such endeavours without it bearing some impact for reward and recognition.



### **Showcase of how Web2.0 tools can be used to improve learning and teaching across HEIs and/or Departments**

Jo Badge talked about her experiences with Web2.0 tools throughout the last few years and provided insight into why she gave up some tools and kept others as she became more active. With the improvement and availability of portable electronics Jo noted an increase in her use of Web2.0 tools also. Again, Jo stepped in for the poorly Alan Cann to share his personal reflections on his practice and change of over the years.

### **Swapshops**

Facilitated by Julie Peacock, UK Centre for Bioscience

- 'DIIGO for Tiny Tots', Viv Rolfe, DeMontfort University – Viv presented her experiences with DIIGO which is a non-metadata based social bookmarking tool. One issue that Viv is still working on is a consistent and meaningful tagging strategy. DIIGO has the power of providing excellent connectivity and sharing capabilities. Viv invited the group to the systematic review project at [http://groups.diigo.com/group/Biosci\\_multimedia](http://groups.diigo.com/group/Biosci_multimedia)
- 'Enhancing the Student Learning Experience using Live Practicals,' Shazia Chaudhry, University of Manchester - Shazia began this project with the aim of increasing student engagement. This led to the development of an immediate feedback system during practicals where individual results were collated as a group and assessed.
- 'Asset Project: Moving Forward Through Feedback', Julian Park, University of Reading – Julian shared a collection of [Asset Project](#) videos piloted at the University of Reading. If you would like to view the videos again you will need to contact Julian directly as the videos from the pilot project can only be viewed at the University of Reading.

### **Centre focus**

Facilitated by Terry McAndrew, UK Centre for Bioscience – Terry outlined the UK Centre for Bioscience's strategy towards developing a Web2.0 presence and establishment of a critical mass of followers for both the Centre and bioscientists.



### **Discussion & reflection**

Facilitated by Sheryl Meskin, UK Centre for Bioscience – the delegates put themselves into a line of experience from the expert to the novice in order to loop the line back on itself allowing the expert to discuss with a novice what they learned, discovered, would take home, etc with one another.

*All presentations will be put up as an event report on our website ([www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/events/leicester161209.aspx](http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/events/leicester161209.aspx))*