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Developing students' information management skills to match the 21st century internet

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UC&R / CoFHE conference: Exeter, 21st-23rd June 2010

The literature

- The Net Generation / Digital Native theses (Obligner, 2005; Prensky, 2001)
 - The myth of the Google Generation (Rowlands, 2008; Jones *et al*, 2010)
 - Other findings – Jones *et al* (2010)
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What are students good at?

- Owning technology (laptops owned by 75%, mobiles by 97.8%)
 - Using instant messaging, sending texts, using social networks, accessing TV / video / audio online
 - Generally confident about their ICT skills
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Students less good at...

- Critical thinking
 - Referencing properly!
 - Using VLEs
 - Writing & commenting on wikis & blogs
 - Use of video / audio editing software
 - Information management
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What do we do at LSE?

- Training (face-to-face)
 - IT skills, information skills, study skills, using new technologies
 - Library / IT Services / Centre for Learning Technology / Teaching & Learning Centre
 - Digital Literacy programme for staff & research students
 - Online – ‘Library Companion’ in VLE
 - Try to embed sessions in curriculum for undergraduate & masters students
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Case study 1: Keeping up to date

- Originally for staff & researchers
 - Now offered to all students
 - RSS feeds vs email alerts
 - Adding feeds to Google Reader
 - Websites (news), blogs, Twitter etc.
 - Library databases (EBSCO, Science Direct)
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Case Study 2: Managing internet resources

- Offered to staff and researchers
 - Embedded in UG & PG courses (on request of lecturer)
 - Topics covered:
 - Browsing collections on delicious bookmarked by LSE Library / Careers etc.
 - Setting up a delicious account
 - Advice on tagging & organising resources
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Hands-on

Now try out some of our training materials for yourself

You can choose:

Google Reader or delicious

Questions for discussion

1. Do students need this type of training / support? What do they struggle with?
 2. Do you teach any similar classes?
 3. What other topics would you like to teach?
 4. What do you think of our training materials?
 5. What challenges are associated with teaching these skills & tools?
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References

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 - Rowlands, Ian, Nicholas, David, Williams, Peter, Huntington, Paul, Fieldhouse, Maggie, Gunter, Barrie, Withey, Richard Jamali, Hamid R., Dobrowolski, Tom & Tenopir, Carol (2008) The Google generation: the information behaviour of the researcher of the future. *ASLIB Proceedings*. 60 (4) 290-31.
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