Sharing Best Practice Models of E-learning

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Outline of session
How do teachers develop their practice? This session explores the use of Best Practice Models of E-learning as a way for teachers to examine e-learning practice and compare it to 'models' as a way of developing their own practice. A selection of E-learning Models will be explored in detail and compared to case studies of Problem-based learning, collaborative learning and/or online discussion. We will explore the use of the online community of practice and examine some of the resources available to all members.

Introduction to Models of Best Practice in E-learning project
There is lots of information available about e-learning, but teachers often don’t have enough time to research. They are experts in their own area, not e-learning. There is a need to have access to research-based material that guides them to the best practice in e-learning in an accessible format.

The Models project has gathered a series of simple models based on a range of e-learning topics and presented the model, related case studies and ‘how-to’ guides to blend the theoretical with the practical. There are also online discussion forums for practitioners to share their experience of using the models.

Group Activity
1. Select one of the pairs of model and case study:
   a) Model of Online Discussion – Gilly Salmon and Case study – JISC Learning through Discussion
   or
   b) Model of Online Collaboration - Reid, Forrestal, Cook and Case study – Talking Pictures on the Web – Coventry University

2. Read the case study and the Best Practice Model
3. Agree a scribe and a chair for your group
4. Discuss with your group and highlight on the case study the areas where aspects of the model are used
5. Discuss the following questions and agree your most important point to share in the plenary:
   a. To what extent does the case study seem to follow the model?
   b. Does the case study omit any parts of the model?
   c. What is the most effective use of part/s of the model in the case study?
   d. How useful is the model as a way to evaluate e-learning activities?
   e. How could you use this model to create online discussions in your subject area?

6. Complete the same activity for the other model and case study

Sharing Models of Best Practice in E-learning
The site is open to all e-learning practitioners to view the models, the case studies and contribute to the online discussion forums. Go to http://crusdi1.staffs.ac.uk/moodle/ to create your new account and then enrol with the key BP06 (case sensitive)

Contact Helen Walmsley h.walmsley@staffs.ac.uk with any comments or questions.