Lecture capture case study: Institute of Continuing Education

Interview: Cory Saarinen, E-learning Programme Manager, 6th Jul 2017

The Institute of Continuing Education (ICE) are based at Madingley Hall in Cambridge.

Our students are predominately over the age of 25, many are working full time, may have families, and come from a variety of backgrounds and cultures. They may be studying on a part time basis or on a short term or an intensive course.

Being part of the Lecture Capture Pilot (which was introduced in September 2016) has provided recordings as an additional, invaluable resource for many of our students who have unique personal situations compared with your average undergraduate student. The use of the software allows them to study when they choose and to fit this work around their other commitments.

Some of our students have had a break from being in a teaching environment for several years so the recordings enable them to process information at their own pace and convenience. Our teaching days are often very intensive coving 6-8 hours of training, which is a lot of information to take in at a single session. Recordings reduce the pressure of attempting to process large amounts of content at the time it is delivered.

The lecture capture search functions are especially useful as a lot of our subject assessments are essay-based rather than via examinations. The students use the software to reinforce their knowledge as their course progresses and they can search for particular areas to support their essay writing.

Students can also refer back to the recordings in emergency situations. We had a student who had to leave half way through their teaching day due to their child being unwell. They would normally (before lecture capture) have missed out on hours of teaching. Access to the recording of the missed lecture meant they could go over the material at the weekend and get back up-to-date much more effectively that they would be able to by going through pages and pages of presentation slides. They were also not made to feel negative about their unavoidable situation.

The software is also a credible support tool for students with disabilities, allowing easy access to information.

Ease of use of the software is an added bonus. It doesn't require any in depth specialist knowledge or training prior to using the system. From an administrative perspective, it delivers time savings making it very easy to edit and upload a lecture soon after it has been recorded.

Our lecturers had initial reservations about being involved in the pilot. As more and more sessions were recorded throughout the term, staff came to recognise the benefits of the system as a support service to our students.

It's useful for our lecturers as well. They can view statistics on the parts of a lecture that are being referred to more frequently (possibly due to a more complex topic) then assess whether a different presentation or a recap is appropriate for students.

Summary of advantages of lecture capture at ICE

- Provides learning support, allowing students to fit study around their particular personal circumstances.
- Facilitates discussion forums where students can engage directly rather than via text based communications and submissions.
- Provides a learning support tool for disabled students.
- The searchable database allows students to refer directly to information on specific subjects when essay writing.
- Reduces the risk of students underachieving or failing by allowing them to revisit topics and recordings.
- Is easy for admin and support staff to use to edit and upload lectures.

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