

Vignette: a snapshot of your applied project experience

Name: Bob Lawlor

What was your **project title**?

Using Podcasts to support Communication Skills Development: A Case Study for Content Format Preferences among Postgraduate Research Students

What is your **discipline**/area of professional practice?

University Lecturer in science and engineering

Why did you need to do this project at the time?

To promote communication skills development among postgraduate researchers in the faculty of science and engineering.

What technologies did you use?

Podcasts

What were the main challenges in your project? How did you overcome them?

Trying to make sense of conflicting findings in the literature relating to the effectiveness of podcasts as e-enhancements to the delivery of learning outcomes.

What was the outcome of your project?

A clear subjective preference among a small group (15 subjects) of research students for podcast format was identified. This podcast format was slides with edited embedded recordings of the original speaker.

What is happening now? Has it developed since? How?

I have since discovered that the findings were consistent with related findings in the field of educational psychology and with the principles of multimedia learning [Mayer 2009]. I have also since become active in a European COST Action (1003) – Quality of Experience in Multimedia Systems and Services – www.qualinet.eu
I have also since become interested in Project-Oriented Problem Based Learning as an effective model for the development of communication skills.

[Mayer 2009] *Multimedia Learning*, Richard E. Mayer. (2009), Cambridge University Press.

URL/Link to Project:

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0360131509002747#gr3>