

What about... web lecture tools?

Topic Summary

Web lecture tools are one possibility when it comes to lecture capture. These are especially useful for recording online learning lecture sessions, guest lectures from overseas, and other distance learning situations. There are several specific software packages available, most prominently Elluminate and Wimba Classroom.

The toolset of each web lecture service will differ slightly, though in general will include many of the same features.

Resource Summary

Topic: web lecture / capture technology

Authors: Amanda Hardy

Institution: Coventry University

Target audience: Practitioners

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Comment:

Things to Consider

- Voice and video conversation
- Enables synchronous meeting, sometimes with the ability to invite 'guests' into the room via web or telephone
- Generally can be integrated into an institution's VLE or online learning toolkit
- Enhanced with tools such as PowerPoint, web browsing, desktop or application sharing, drawing board, collaboration tools, breakout rooms, and user management options
- Should have recording / archiving ability
- Web lecture tools can be used as a 'personal capture' option to record short resources not necessarily requiring an audience, lectures in advance of a lecturer absence or campus closure, feedback, etc.
- Potentially useful for 'tutorial' sessions with distance or blended learners, as the recording can be kept and reviewed (some care must be taken to ensure privacy / access)
- Web lecture tools can also sometimes be used as an alternative to lecture capture room installations. Technical staff can install / configure on the PC in such a way that lecturer voice and PC activity is recorded, and a webcam could be installed to provide basic video. This is useful for pandemic planning as room installation systems are generally expensive

Practical Suggestions

- Web conferencing tools can only be used online, so internet access (broadband) is required
- Be sure to try using the tool before you actually need to, in order to work out any technical problems
- Use a headset with headphones/microphone to reduce audio echo and feedback
- Multiple users sharing video can slow down a connection, so limit video sharing to key users or toggle on and off with different speakers
- Using collaborative tools (voting, hand-raising, quizzes, etc.) can help create a more dynamic session

Resources

ELTAC document: What About... different methods of lecture capture?

ELTAC document: What About... making a personal capture?

ELTAC document: What About... personal capture advice?

Authors Amanda Hardy