

What about... different methods of lecture capture?

Topic Summary

Lecture capture is essentially recording your lecture in some format in order to make it available to students (or another audience) at a later point. Capturing lectures is by no means a new idea, but the growing availability and sophistication of technology has made lecture capture more accessible than ever. There is increasing demand from students for this type of support, and students are not the only ones who may benefit.

Which method you choose should depend on your purposes in capturing it and the technical limitations of the software. None of them are very technologically demanding to do (web lectures can be, depending on how far you wish to take the software) but each has its own features, strengths and weaknesses.

Resource Summary

Topic: Types of lecture capture

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Comment:

Things to Consider

- **podcast** (audio only, generally created using free, easy-to-use recording software like Audible)
- **narrated PowerPoint** (slides with pre-recorded voiceovers)
- **web lecture** (audio, webcam, chat, whiteboard, and PC activity e.g. Wimba Classroom or Big Blue Button)
- **personal capture** (audio, optional webcam, and PC activity e.g. screencasts, Jing, or Echo³⁶⁰'s PCAP)
- **room installation** (lecture room recordings with audio, video, and data projector activity e.g. Echo³⁶⁰)
- **'podium' installation** (less complex room installations which capture PC activity and audio only)

Practical Suggestions

Podcasts are low-tech and the most portable. Easy to make, they can be augmented with 'podsafe' music.

Narrated PowerPoint can be done within PowerPoint itself, so is available to any lecturer with the program. Each slide can have its own audio clip to expand on the topic and provide information. Screencast software like Jing can also be used to create these.

Web lecture recordings are captures of live web-conference lectures so lecturers can capture discussion, student interaction, etc (or can be recorded with no students present).

Personal capture systems (or screencasts) are installed on a desktop or laptop and so are recordable anywhere. They are suitable for recordings the lecturer can make in their office or on location, e.g. supplementary material.

Room installation systems are installed in specific locations (generally lecture theatres) and provide a recording of the live lecture as delivered. This is usually what "lecture capture" refers to.

'Podium' installations are installed in specific rooms and work more like screencasts than room installations. They only capture PC-originating activity (not visualizers, etc.) and lecturer audio, unless the PC has a webcam.

Resources

ELTAC document: What About... web lecture tools?

All Things in Moderation: Podcasting for Learning in Universities (<http://www.atimod.com/podcasting/index.shtml>)

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