Implementing Sakai (iKamva) at the University of the Western Cape (UWC)

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1. Introduction

The University of the Western Cape (UWC) is currently embarking on a Sakai pilot project with academics and support units across campus. Training workshops have been conducted by the Centre for Innovative Educational and Communication Technologies (CIECT) team to: familiarise users with the online environment; and teach users how to make effective use of the communication, content and assessment tools.

2. Sakai (iKamva at UWC) marketing campaign

The CIECT team have engaged in an online marketing blog campaign. Hence, blogs related to the use of Sakai (iKamva "Moving ahead/ future") to enhance teaching-and-learning interventions at UWC.

The following blogs (sent during the period January-May 2013) will give the reader an indication of how lecturers are making use of the eTools:

Dentistry lecturer makes use of Sakai (iKamva) platform

Posted on April 24, 2013 by ciect

Dear Colleagues,

Dentistry Lecturer, Vivienne Wilson, makes use of the Sakai (iKamva) platform to share course material and communicate with the fourth year students.

Previously students received the course material in paper-based format and were not able to view cases and clinical pictures electronically. During tutorials the lecturer would explain the learning content and students were required to apply the theory to the practical sessions.

In lieu of these challenges, the lecturer consulted with the CIECT team to discuss issues related to her teaching-and-learning practices. The instructional designer advised the lecture to create an online environment which enables students to view and download learning material; cases; practicals; and clinical pictures.

Vivienne Wilson has also requested that the team to video record her sessions whereby she addressed challenging concepts. These edited videos, once uploaded, will enable students to revisit her lessons; and further reinforce their understanding of the specific concept.

N.B The team encourages staff members to arrange for group training sessions related to the effective use of eTools within the iKamva platform.

Nursing lecturers share and communicate using the Sakai (iKamva) Platform

Posted on April 18, 2013 by ciect

Dear Colleagues,

Lecturers, Lorraine Fakude and Ntomizodwa Linda, created an online environment for the Nursing Masters modules (Nur 820; Nur 821; and Nur 823) within the online SAKAI platform (iKamva). The lecturers received one-on-one consultations around the functionality and use of various eTools to enhance their teaching-and-learning practices. Lecturers selected specific eTools related to their course needs. These eTools enabled the following:

-Course Resources to share relevant course material and outlines
-Discussion forum to discuss preparation for teaching practice;
-Announcements to alert students of new material and class venues;
-Assignments to view and submit completed assessment tasks; and
-Statistics to view the most active user/student in the online environment and most used eTool/resource.

Subsequent to the creation of the online modules, the students received training regarding access and navigation of the environments. This training occurred on a Saturday morning as most of the Nursing Postgraduate students are employed full-time.

The team encourages staff members to arrange for group training sessions related to the effective use of eTools within the iKamva platform.

Click on the link to view our Calendar: http://tinyurl.com/a5mwt4y

Kind regards
CIECT

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English lecturer uses scaffolding approach on Sakai platform

Posted on April 5, 2013 by ciect

Dear Colleagues,

Lecturer, Mr Mahmoud Patel from the English Department created an online environment within the Sakai (iKamva) platform. Mr Patel has structured his course to allow:

· the uploading of course resources
- lecture slides and notes,
- additional learning material and
- take home tests.

The course is also structured to allow for:
· a scaffolding approach whereby the resources are made available per term.

The CIECT team encourages Departments to arrange for group training sessions related to the effective use of eTools within the Sakai (iKamva) platform.

** View the Training and Support Interventions for 2013 at the following link CIECT Calendar 2013 (http://tinyurl.com/apqjso7).

Kind Regards,
CIECT Team

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Political Studies lecturers co-facilitate within the Sakai platform

Posted on April 5, 2013 by ciect

Dear Colleagues,

First year Political Studies course co-ordinator Cherrel Africa, makes use of the Sakai (iKamva) platform to share course material and communicate with students. The course is collaboratively taught, with each lecturer focusing on a specific segment of the course. Mr Kenny Bafo teaches for week 1-7 (political studies); and Garth Van Rooyen teaches for week 8-14 (International Relations). Mr Rian Leith lectures the after-hours group throughout the module.

Cherrel makes use of the 'home page' to share the learning outcomes; and other important information about the course (policies; lecturers; contact details; course material; course outline; course resources; tutorials; and assessment).

The course has been structured into manageable lessons which incorporate relevant resources such as YouTube to reinforce certain concepts. Announcements are also used to share important course information such as test dates, new course material, and tutorials.

Our elearning site: http://elearn.uwc.ac.za
email: elearning@uwc.ac.za
Tel: 021 959 3200/2501/3068

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B.ED Honours lecturer makes use of Sakai/iKamva platform

Posted on March 28, 2013 by ciect

Dear Colleagues,

Lecturer, Gasant Gamiet of the Education Faculty has made us of the eTeaching platform to enhance his teaching-and-learning practices. Gasant created his B.ED Honours modules online in order for his students to access and engage with:

-Course material;
-Online discussion topics; and the
-Submission of online assignments.

It should be noted that these online discussion topics are accessible via the mobile devices (cellphones; tablets; ipads). Students are also able to respond within discussion topics via their cellphones.

Gasant has also volunteered to participate in the Sakai (iKamva) pilot project. He is in the process of testing the pedagogical value of the eTools within iKamva for his B.ED Honours modules; as well as for a Mathematics and Science project.

The CIECT team will continue to support the eTeaching platform whilst lecturers migrate to the new institutional platform, iKamva.

** View the Training and Support Interventions for 2013 at the following link CIECT Calendar 2013 (http://tinyurl.com/apqjso7).

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Juliet Stoltenkamp and Carolynne Kies, June 2013. Centre for Innovative Educational and Communication Technologies (CIECT)

Library Information Science lecturer makes use of Sakai platform (iKamva)

Posted on March 28, 2013 by ciect

Lecturer Sarah Witbooi makes use of the Sakai (iKamva) platform to teach her first year Library Information Science students. Sally attended an eLearning workshop related to flexible learning provision. The workshop included discussions around:

- ePedagogy;
- eTools;
- Modes of delivery; and
- Instructional strategy (focus on alignment of outcomes, activities, content and eTools).

Hence, Sally's Instructional Strategy informed the development of the online Library Information Science module. Sally structured her course into manageable units of learning:
- course outline; and
- course material.

The content is well-structured into a course resource folder which includes:
- Tutorials;
- Worksheets; and
- Presentations.

Announcements are also used to share important dates regarding venues, tutorials and test dates. The tutors were added to the online module in order to assist the students and lecturer.

** View the Training and Support Interventions for 2013 at the following link CIECT Calendar 2013 (http://tinyurl.com/apqjso7).

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Chemistry lecturer uses Sakai Platform to enhance study units

Posted on March 15, 2013 by ciect

Lecturer, Karen Wallace from the Chemistry Department created an online environment within the Sakai (iKamva) platform. Karen has structured her course to allow:

- the uploading of course resources
    - lecture slides,
    - articles, and
    - exam archives (papers and tests).

The course is also structured to allow for:

- a scaffolding approach (study units), and
- the inclusion of related multimedia (images, instructional videos and links to other resources).

Karen makes use of the embedding capabilities of the iKamva site, which allows:

- YouTube videos to be aligned to specific content, and
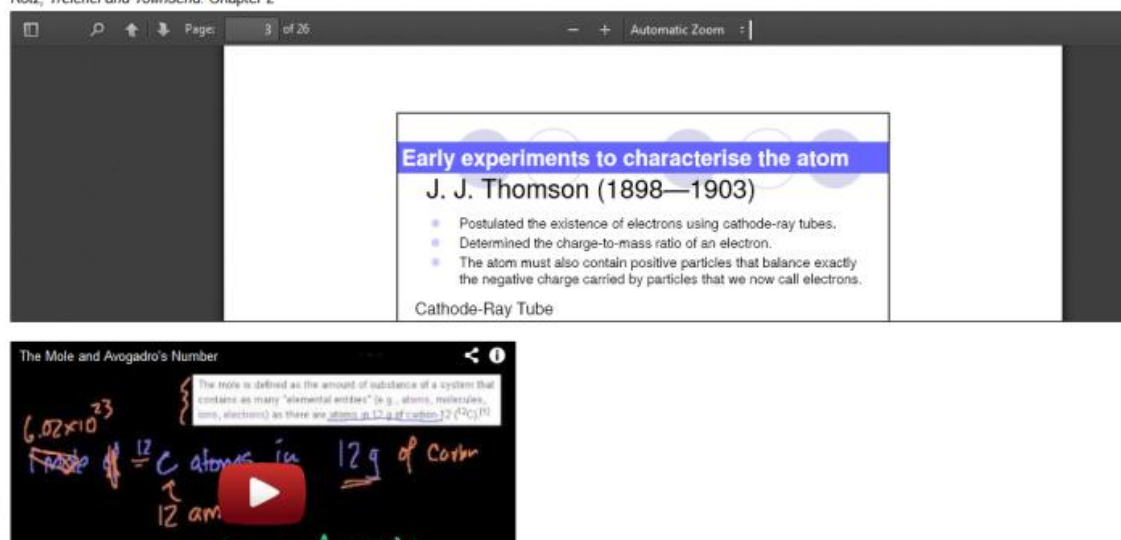- PDF articles to be viewed within related learning material.

The CIECT team encourages Departments to arrange for group training sessions related to the effective use of eTools within the Sakai (iKamva) platform.

Physics lecturer makes use of SAKAI platform to reinforce lessons

Posted on March 14, 2013 by ciect

Lecturer Valentino Van De Heyde created a learning environment for Physics (PHY 113) module within the online SAKAI platform (iKamva). Valentino and 13 other lecturers have attended iKamva traning workshops during the period, 19-29 November 2012. These training workshops were facilitated by the Centre for Innovative Educational and Communication Technologies (CIECT). It focused on the following:

• Develop a course using the best principles of instructional design,
• Create and navigate the online environment,
• Select eCommunication tools,
• Create 5 different types of assignments (eAssessments), and
• Create an interactive online course.

The Physics online module supports his face-to-face teaching-and-learning practices, specifically for undergraduates. Valentino makes use of relevant eTools to enhance the content and communication activities within his online classroom. Hence, the 'Course Resources and Announcement' tools are used to share important YouTube video links; and notices with students. This allows student to revisit videos to reinforce lessons discussed in class. YouTube videos shared within the iKamva environment include:

• Time and motion
• Thermal Conductivity
• Oral information
• Linear Expansion
• Graphs
• Fluid Mechanics
• Electrostatics
• Electricity

Lecturer		Faculty/ Department
1	Nadia Mohamed	Dentistry
2	Fatima Peerbhay	Dentistry
3	Mahmoud Patel	Arts, English
4	Sally Witbooi	Arts, Library Information Science
5	Ntombizodwa Linda	CHS Nursing
6	Gasant Gamiet	Education
7	Nicolette Roman	CHS, Social Work
8	Mohammed Redau Safodien	CHS, Social Work
9	Lorraine Fakude	CHS, Nursing
10	Karen Wallace	Science, Chemistry
11	Valentino Van De Heyde	Science, Physics
12	Ronald Arendse	EMS, Accounting
13	Cherrel Africa	EMS, Political studies
14	Garth Van Rooyen	EMS, Political studies

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Lecturers make use of eAssessment tools to enhance their teaching practices

Posted on March 6, 2013 by ciect

Juliana Willemse (Nursing Department); Doreen Nchang (Education Faculty); and Jacques de Ville (Law Faculty) have made use of online Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) to support their teaching modules:

Doreen created an online test to evaluate the students' knowledge on the use and application of specific referencing techniques for assignments.

Juliana makes use of the MCQ tool to test students' knowledge related to course material; and specific topics. Juliana states that although there have been some challenges (slow internet response and time-outs) – the "students left the computer lab with a sense of accomplishment as they knew exactly how well or bad they did in the task. There is probably nothing better than immediate feedback on a task completed".

Jacques created an online pre-reading test, whereby students were expected to prepare and actively engage during class-time.

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Juliet Stoltenkamp and Carolynne Kies, June 2013. Centre for Innovative Educational and Communication Technologies (CIECT)

Sakai pilot project: Integration of mobile devices

Posted on March 6, 2013 by ciect

In May 2012, a decision was made to select and implement the Sakai platform as the institutional Learning Management System (LMS).

Phases 1 and 2 of the pilot project, which entailed installation and integration with the Student Administrative Systems Integration (SASI) system have been completed. Currently, the Centre for Innovative Educational Communication Technologies (CIECT) team is engaged in the socialisation and familiarisation phase of the project, which entails the training of fourteen (14) lecturers across faculties. The scope of the pilot project includes:

a. 2 lecturers per faculty
b. 4 Courses per lecturer
c. 1000 students per course
d. 7 faculties

The Sakai platform is interoperable, hence it allows users to access and fully engage with all the online tools via compatible mobile devices (i.e. smartphones, tablets etc.). This enables students to download notes; view videos; engage in polls and discussion forum; as well as complete tests. "Students are already inventing ways to use their phones to learn what they want to know. If we educators are smart, we'll figure out how to deliver our product in a way that fits into our students' digital lives – and their cell phones" (Prensky, 2004).

Currently, the Sakai platform is being hosted off-campus by an external vendor OpenCollab. The Information and Communication Services (ICS) department is in the process of preparing the UWC environment in order for the Sakai platform to be hosted internally.

This will enable the CIECT team to migrate all lecturers currently within the eTeaching platform to the Sakai platform. This process will take place during the course of 2013.

3. Conclusion

Lecturers and students will be familiarised within our newly selected Learning Management System (LMS). The CIECT team will continue with the implementation process and by December 2013, the entire campus community will be migrated to the latest version of Sakai 2.9. OpenCollab is currently supporting UWC with the installation and migration processes.