

- Iwata, J., & Clayton, J., (2008, 3-6 September) *The first steps in creating a research culture: Use a Learning Management System (LMS) Glossary Tool*. Poster presented at EuroCall 2008: New competencies and social spaces. Székesfehérvár, Hungary. <http://www.asszisztencia.hu/eurocall/index.php?c=85>

This poster outlines how the glossary functionality of the open source learning management system Moodle can be used to encourage the development of a research culture within small and medium sized tertiary institutions. It also explores how collaboration opportunities institutions could be encouraged nationally and internationally by using the techniques described. The underlying philosophy used in the development of research communities within institutions is the concept of communities of practice (COP). Communities of practice are founded upon the integration of three fundamental elements: 1. a domain of knowledge, which defines a set of issues 2. a community of people who care about this domain 3. the shared practice that they are developing to be effective in their domain The domain (field or discipline) upon which this particular COP was to be built was institutional research. This domain would include definition, description, storage, searching and deployment of research outputs. While the initial numbers within the community would be limited, it is anticipated this community would grow and develop as the concepts mature and individual web spaces are more widely deployed. The poster authors firstly, recognized the course functionalities of Moodle, a free, open source course management system (CMS), could be used to create a COP and secondly, the functionalities of the glossary tool could be used to allow individuals to upload, store, describe and release their research to the community. The tool could then be used by other members of the research community to search, download and comment the research presented. Each researcher can use the functionalities of the glossary to firstly, create categories, based on institutional decided weightings for research outputs, secondly, provide a brief overview of the research undertaken and finally, upload their current research outputs. Once the glossaries are published, members of the community are able to use other functions of the glossary tool to search for articles, review descriptions, download articles and presentations. When the research has been published, the community of researchers can use the comment functionality of the glossary in a number of ways. They can praise the researcher on their efforts, provide links to associated research outputs they are aware of, or, more importantly, seek further clarification of points from the researcher creating institutional dialogue. This poster presentation also argues that the creation of individual web spaces for researchers within small to medium sized tertiary educational institutions will encourage the creation of research community of practice. This will potentially raise the quality and quantity of research within smaller and medium institutions. Keywords: Moodle, collaboration, research, glossary function, LMS, Community of Practice