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# Crynoldebau / abstracts

Survival Guides, Wikis and Weblogs: Designing and Coordinating an Online Learning Community to Support the Professional Development of Earl-Mid Career Lecturers and University Teachers

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In 2011, consultation across Aberystwyth University revealed that whilst new lecturers found value in theories of learning and teaching, the first thing that they really needed when new in post was some kind of dynamic, individualized and responsive survival guide to support them during their first semester of teaching ‘in at the deep end’. This paper will focus on the modernization of the Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching in Higher Education (PGCTHE) and the incorporation of technology-enhanced learning to attempt to meet these needs. It examines the success of this model through extracts from the survival guide and examines the design challenges of creating a ‘place’ where academics can share teaching problems and solutions, give advice, support, empathy and encouragement to each other. This paper is situated within current theoretical debates about online communities of practice and the potential for e-learning technologies to enhance educational development amongst early – mid career academic staff.