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# Crynoldebau / abstracts

An Example of Student Centred Learning for the Year 2 International Tourism Development Module (SMB): The Use of Wikis to Enhance Student Learning

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The year 2 international tourism development module addresses the conceptual and practical nature of tourism development and aims to enable students to evaluate tourism development strategies in a range of countries. The coursework task for the module requires students to work in groups to identify and evaluate a tourism development strategy for a given destination and present their findings to their classmates. The format aims for students to interact with each other’s work to maximise learning opportunities. In the past this had been done through student Power-point presentations however this approach did not maximise opportunities for student interaction.

This presentation highlights the introduction of wikis as a coursework platform to host student presentations. The aim of using the wiki was to improve group work cohesiveness and to enable greater interaction between groups and their presentations. The wiki provided students with a longer time period for interaction than the class presentation. This provided students with the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of their overall subject. The teacher’s role included equipping students with the cognitive and technical skills to complete the task as well as supporting and monitoring student activity on line when developing the wikis and interacting with each other’s sites.

Findings from the wiki intervention were generally positive and show: Higher levels of interaction between groups and improved quality of interaction Improved quality of student work (as perceived by students and confirmed by course work scores) The development of student vocational skills The assessment also highlighted how the wiki intervention could be improved with suggestions from both students and teachers. The presentation ends by highlighting factors to consider when planning such student centred learning activities. (A wiki is a website created collaboratively by a group; it also allows visitors to the site to question and comment).