Too cool for (law) school?
Using technology to engage students in legal skills

Emily Allbon
Sanmeet Kaur Dua
George Buchanan
Where did it all start...?

- My role
- Lawbore elements
  - Topic guides
  - Hub
  - Future Lawyer blog
  - Learnmore
Learning legal skills: what worries me

LALALALALALALALALALA…
I’m not interested in any of this skills stuff!
Better and targeted research

- Search engine holding all the answers?
- Surface learning
- Internet stealing away our capacity to concentrate
- Spence (2004) ‘we’re on the web all the time. We can find the information we need’
What worries them?

writing | research | exams | mooting | law careers
Existing problems for engagement

- Skills gap A-levels to degree
- Lecture/tutorial model
- Managing student expectation – helping them see it informs all learning
- Subject can seem dull in comparison with substantive
So what did our resource have to be/do?

- Resource-based
- Focused around the students
- Available 24/7
- Promote independence and academic confidence
- Lots of multimedia

Eye catching visually
Let’s take a look…
Why does multimedia help?

- I’m that type of learner/everyone learns by different methods – closes the learning gap
- More interesting medium
- Get the chance to watch it again
- More fun to work so I concentrate more/get us students working with a greater passion
- Makes it stick more in my mind/ideal for people who are more ‘hands-on’
- Able to visually see things
- Variety of resources is refreshing, not dull and boring like a book
- Breaks up lectures/visuals can be beneficial from the daily monotonous lecturers talking
What methods did we chose...?

The law report hierarchy

- Top spot is held by the originally named The Law Reports.

- Don’t get confused between these and the many other series of law reports.
Research on Learnmore
“Law professors’ personal stories about ‘how I learned it’ – somewhat meaningless and antiquated. Novice peers, are perfect mirrors to help each other reflect and regulate law student learning” (Herndon, 2010)
“Felt inspired by reading about what others in our position have achieved”
What do the students think about Learnmore as a learning resource?

‘It helps to have lots of different types of resources to learn from, not being reliant on always learning by reading!’

‘Different resources – online tutorials, slideshows and videos – present the information in a fun and stimulating way…’

‘It gets intense going through textbooks as reading can become a chore – nice to have something to lighten it’

‘Suits different people and how they study’
An app?

JISC funded until end of May 2012

- Interactivity
- On the move
- Visual crispness
- Wider reach
- Try something new
Challenges?

- Mainly concern info architecture
- Need to be Tactile
- Consistent
- Compatibility
- Established feelings to web version
- Future-proofing
- Ensuring the students like it!
The Careers category is the best place to start when looking to get that foot in the door, whether it be learning about the establishment which are important, how to get going with some pro bono work or where to find help.

Check out this article about gaining valuable experience in work placements during your studies.

Getting some experience
- New content creation
- Template for text pieces
- Illustrations
- Activities
- Re-recording audio
- Testing, testing testing!
- Roll out

...look for more funding!
Image credits

Slide 1 Love me, love my lady sunglasses by Bobaloo Rox
http://www.flickr.com/photos/bobaloorox/3231155662/

Slide 3 Lalala…I don’t wanna hear this! by hebedesign
http://www.flickr.com/photos/hebe/2512086374/

Slide 4 The brain typography’ by labguest
http://www.flickr.com/photos/labguest/3302264930/

Slide 5 Y2.d40 | worry lines by B Rosen
http://www.flickr.com/photos/rosengrant/4345500222/

Slide 6 mind the gap by limaoscarjuliet
http://www.flickr.com/photos/limaoscarjuliet/3305886294/

Slide 7 Cat eyes by eye/see
http://www.flickr.com/photos/grandmaitre/5680486880/

Slide 12 Professor Finger Puppet by abbey*christine

Slide 16 [108/365] Ill-advised by pasukaru76
http://www.flickr.com/photos/pasukaru76/5268559005/

Slide 18 365::153 what’s next? by .reid
http://www.flickr.com/photos/sarahreido/4683295771/
http://www.wired.com/magazine/2010/05/ff_nicholas_carr/all/1


Nicholas, David and Rowlands, Ian (2008) Information Behaviour of the Researcher of the Future,