Stimulating student learning when visual is King: Learnmore at City University

Emily Allbon - Law Librarian - City University London
twitter.com/lawbore
At City
What are we facing?

LALALALALALA…
I’m not interested in any of this library 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’
The big challenge: engaging students

- Independent learners
- Legal skills are fundamental to making great lawyers
- Inform how they adapt to substantive law teaching
- Lifelong and deep learning
Existing problems for engagement

- Skills gap A-levels to degree
- Lecture/tutorial model
- Managing student expectation
- Subject can be dull!
So what did our resource have to be/do?

- Resource-based
- Focused around the students
- Available 24/7
- Promote independence and academic confidence
- Embedding real-life – learning through practice
- Lots of multimedia
Visual = King

- Connected world in which our students reside
- Has to look good or no-one will care about the content
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’
Let’s take a look...
What do the students think are the most important legal skills?

Do multimedia resources enhance your learning experience?
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 choose...
Research on Learnmore
Peer learning

- 71% of LLB students surveyed - value mix of advice from lecturers and other students
Law profs…yawn...

- “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)

And then in 1974…
“Felt inspired by reading about what others in our position have achieved”
Questions?
References

  http://www.wired.com/magazine/2010/05/ff_nicholas_carr/all/1


Credits

- Slide 1: ‘Eyes are the mirror of the soul’ by rAmmoRRison
  http://www.flickr.com/photos/rammorrison/4704353204/
- 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: – ‘put your hand up if you're having a good time’ by vern
  http://www.flickr.com/photos/mic_n_2_sugars/564570276/
- Slide 6: ‘mind the gap’ by limaoscarjuliet
  http://www.flickr.com/photos/limaoscarjuliet/3305886294/
- Slide 7: ‘Laptop’ by sp3ccylad
  http://www.flickr.com/photos/sp3ccylad/497684709/
Credits

- Slide 8: ‘king club’ by oknovokght
  http://www.flickr.com/photos/oknovokght/2189461072/

- Slide 15: from Big Walk on Water website
  http://bigwalkonwater.wordpress.com/2008/09/

- Slide 16: ‘Professor Finger Puppet’ by abbey*christine
  http://www.flickr.com/photos/abbeychristine/2111324084/
  and ‘The famous yawn - cc licence’ by Hilary Quinn
  http://www.flickr.com/photos/hilaryaq/3435257717/

- Slide 18: ‘Questions’ by Marcus Ramberg
  http://www.flickr.com/photos/marcusramberg/185508448/