Providing Better and More Reliable Employment Information through Authenticated CVs – the DECADE Approach

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The Problem with Metacognition

- To meet KPIs academic staff load students with more input and don’t rely on guided study

- Assessment loads focus on material presented directly or on-line, do not therefore assess knowledge, understanding or creativity

- Yet, we expect our graduates to be adult, metacognitive and creative – how??
The Problem with Metacognition

- Particularly in technical subjects, assessing skills and competence is necessary to ensure students can then undertake higher learning.

- Plagiarism is a serious issue!

- Even the introduction of elearning technologies, VLEs and online assessments have not moved away from this pedagogic model.
An Alternative Approach

- Move towards an *andragogic* (loaded term) or *heutagogic* model (student centric learning)

- Students are adults in charge of their own learning, and are clients of a professional service provided by academics

- Free up the learning and assessment process to achieve this, using the DECADE approach
DECADE Project

- Large-scale project considering the use of monitored digital environments to capture activity – Domain Expertise Capture in Authoring & Development Environments
- Multi-phases considering whole life model
- Current phase developing toolkit for use with students, in partnership with BCS, to develop active CV and portfolio
- Key cycle: monitoring->verification->validation
DECADE Student Approach

- Appropriately designed learning objects in monitored digital environment:
  - Evidence of activity and progress
  - Skills and competence assessment through completion of monitored coursework process
  - Verified online assessments
  - Plagiarism modelling and detection
  - Physical environments for exams and assessments, to avoid personation and other exam frauds
  - Student control of active CV and portfolio production
Verification Process

- Statistical information on student activity provided to academics to sign-off that activity

- Assessments, exams and other graded performance added to CV and signed-off

- External activity, voluntary activity and other evidence can be added to CV and signed-off
External Validation

- Central **gold standard** database maintained by professional body, i.e. BCS

- DB updated from local verification system for selected and aggregated CV information

- Provides a validation service for employers

- Supports lifelong learning, CPD, career progress
Summary

- Move to a student-centric learning model that permits them adult control of their own learning development – move towards metacognition
- Need to free up academic resources from existing workload to support this
- DECADE project developing monitored digital environment for domain expertise capture, with local verification and national validation model
- Future phases of project will consider qualitative evaluation of expertise for lifelong learning
Questions????