

Commentary

Reflections on the last 10 years of TELIC and ELMAC conferences

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The first student led conference was held at HAN University Nijmegen in 2005 and was a huge landmark in the history of the course. It brought together tutors and students and it gave graduates and alumni an opportunity to talk. Participation was organised around seminars, workshops, learning sets and a thematic carousel. Students involved in dissertations and projects had the chance to promote their ideas and air their findings.



Figure 1: Delivering at the first TELIC conference 2005 with Andrew Middleton

Joint contributions in workshops were an experience, but it was a coming together in real life; we were meeting our peers in 3D for the first time - remember those dial up video conferences that spanned half a decade - now we could see what we really looked like.

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Figure 2: Active learning with Steef Woldinga

My recollections; a packed programme of events displayed in Times New Roman - how we have moved on, and a very discerning audience in a packed workshop that I delivered with Andrew Middleton; *Discovering the potential of digital audio for on-line learning in a constructivist learning environment* - and how I have moved on.

The following year, 2006, it was Sheffield and the memories are of many themes, e-learning in schools, open source software, ICT training, collaborating through SMS and texting, police officer training, netiquette, digital storytelling and the rest.

Back in Nijmegen, in 2007, we saw 'Second Life' for the first time and what a life it was; the Kirsten Thompson and Dave Bramley show, with an excellent live link up to Mr Second Life in another country that had us glued. Then in 2008, at Sheffield Hallam we started to explore special interest groups, but in Nijmegen in 2009 we saw the '*world café*'. Rene Slootweg instructed us to cover a wall with our thoughts and interests and these were converted into a visit to a round table where one of us hosted a topic, hence the world café. In Sheffield 2010, Joy Drever started us off with professional networks and an ice breaker; questions to put to participants and answers to find from responses.

Hasselt in 2011 was famous for being Hasselt, a smaller collection of participants, the arrival of the burger van for a first night of tasty morsels (chips with everything), speed dating and QR codes. We discovered the singing talents of Philipp Stosiek and the engaging talents of Professor Guy Merchant with a keynote on online languages within languages.

I missed Rotterdam in 2012 but made it to Newcastle (well it was just up the road) and it was memorable for a *Pecha Kucha*; multiple presenters with only 20 slides and 5 minutes max duration each. It culminated in a Steef Woldinga presentation; no PowerPoint, just asking us to collect a cup, place a cup on a table, walk on by and not look back until he explained the stack of cups that had been left behind (and who was doing the washing up). David White used Blackboard Collaborate to talk on the challenges of running a MOOC. It closed with a Skype link up to Philipp and his guitar in Munich.



Figure 3: World cafe in Nijmegen, 2009

2014 was memorable for the presentations on the tools, devices and improvements that have advanced our practices – and of course the TELIC Brothers, Richard and Philipp entertained us in the wine bar. What memories!



Figure 4: Debate time, Sheffield 2014

Bio-note: Richard McCarter graduated MSc ELMAC in 2005. He taught on the TEL1 module 2009-12.