

Motivating International Students

(Faculty of Organisation & Management)

Issues:

- Learning styles
- Comprehension rates
- Compliance to tasks set
- Lack of autonomous learning practice

Observations:

- High demand for 'out of class' discussions
- Basic academic construct errors
- Reactive not proactive
- Poor compliance with inter-session activities

Initial Considerations:

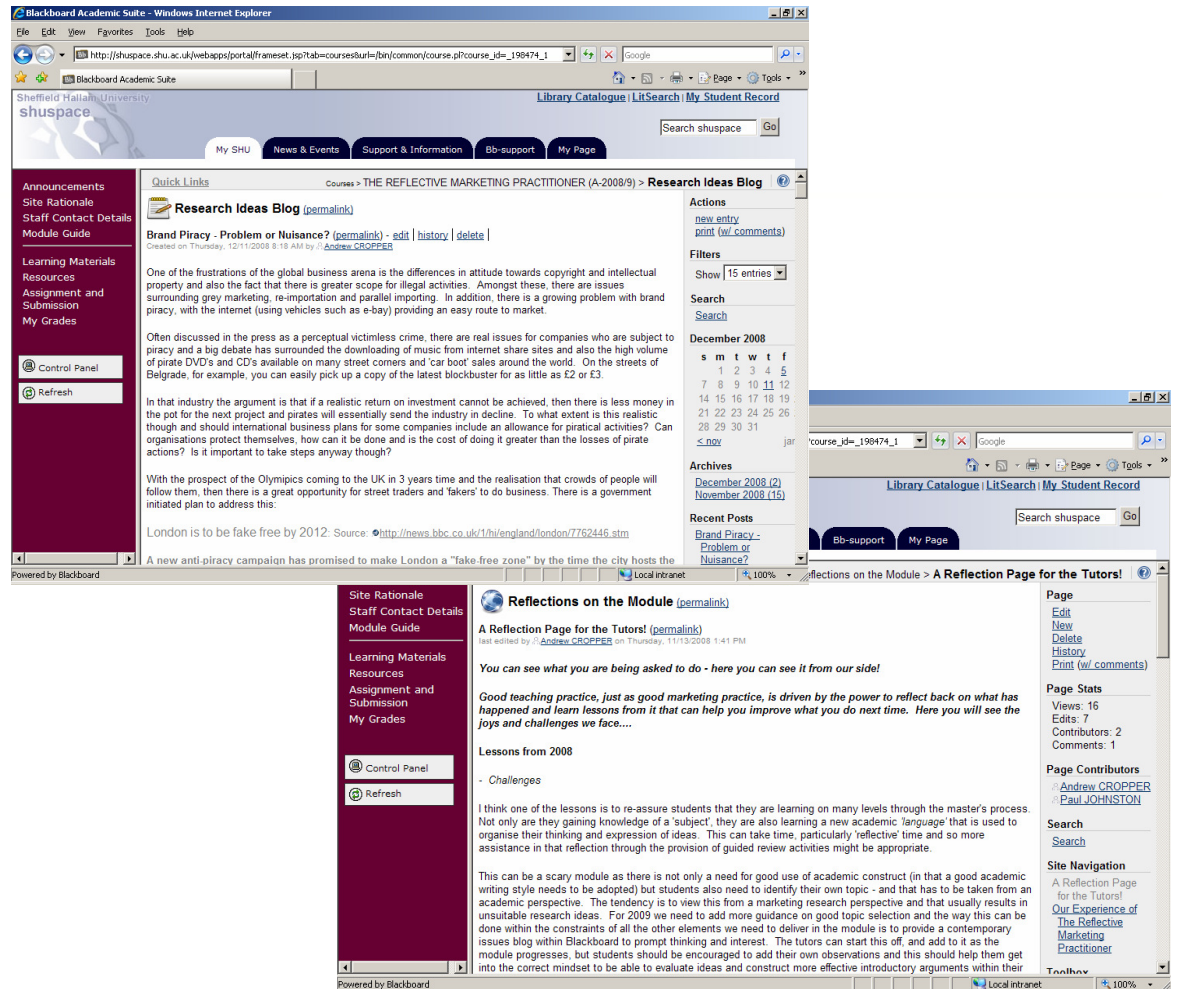
- Encourage more reading
- Provide 'steps' towards autonomy
- Create basis for learning momentum
- Demystify language confusion
- Demonstrate relevance of activities

Current Activity:

- Restructuring a Research Methods module to incorporate construct ideas drawn from a range of sources and experience. On the basis that if it can be done here it can be done anywhere!

Developing and Embedding Learner Autonomy within the Postgraduate Curriculum to Enhance learning and Professional Development .

This is one of five projects being developed in the Faculty of Organisation & Management in 2008-2010



Where this comes from

- In the final seminar of the 2008 module, students completed and then analysed a questionnaire as one of the activities
 - both in terms of the answers and the quality of the questionnaire itself!
- The questionnaire was about their experiences on the module and what they would do differently if starting again
- What follows

What was not so good

Can you spot a bit of a theme?

- Too much time spent in class helping some students to find an idea
- Not enough time spent in class helping people find ideas (😞)
- Not enough time to develop ideas between classes

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5 Students tips for completing the course

1. Attend
 - lectures and seminars
2. Work through the tasks set
 - it helps you get through the pain barrier
3. Contribute in the seminars
 - if you get involved in the discussion it helps remove some confusion
4. Start work early
 - you can't write the assignment in 3 days in May!
5. Check your progress at every opportunity in class
 - don't stay quiet even if it is not going well

Too much in them
long enough

did not get involved in the

What has been done to the module since then?

- **Lecture content**
 - has been reduced and 'top-up' sessions have been placed on BlackBoard so you can study them in your own time
- **BlackBoard now includes an 'ideas' blog**
 - to help generate research ideas
- **BlackBoard has been revised**
 - to include more directed learning materials to help with the self-study process
- **Seminar Activities**
 - have been revised to focus on areas of most confusion
- **More practical examples**
 - have been included to help stimulate ideas



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