ASSET: Moving forward through feedback

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Introduction/background

- **Providing timely, quality feedback and maximising student engagement with that feedback is a considerable challenge for staff.**

- **Feedback is central to learning but evidence suggests that students do not necessarily identify the links between feed-back and their own learning.**

- **National Student Surveys (NSS) have highlighted student concerns about the quality of the feedback they receive.**

> **Challenges for staff in providing timely, quality feedback**
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> Resource constraints: Time!
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> Increased class sizes
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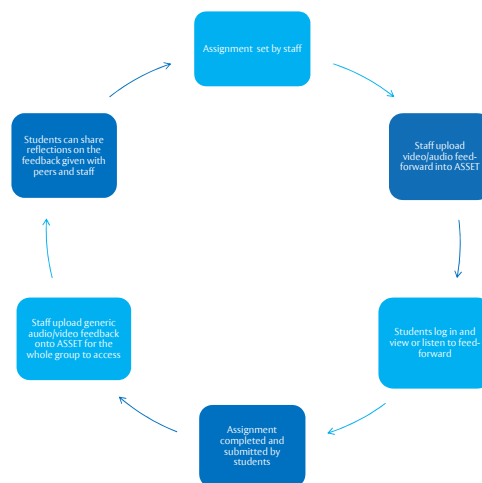> Lack of student engagement with feedback provided

Project Aims

Through the development of a Web 2.0 resource, 'ASSET'[1], the project aims to:

- Support staff and students' understanding of what constitutes 'good' feedback .

- Encourage deeper student and staff engagement with feed-forward[2] and feedback.

- Facilitate feedback-oriented dialogue between students and between students and staff, thus completing the 'feedback loop' (Juwah, 2004)[3].

- Encourage students to become reflective practitioners in the feed-forward and feedback process and utilise this in their own personal development.
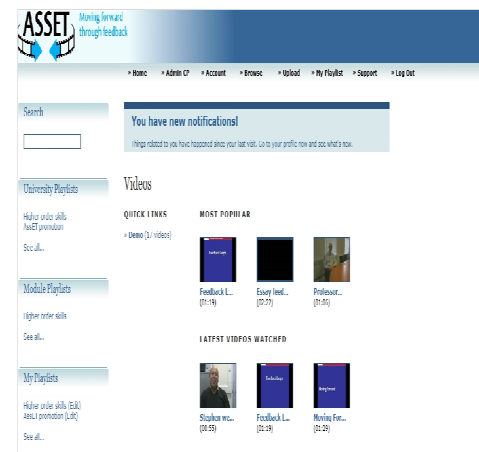
ASSET

- Funded by JISC, ASSET is an innovative, interactive resource designed to enhance students' engagement with feedback in relation to their learning.

- ASSET supports staff in providing generic and/or tailored feed- forward and feedback to students, via video and audio casts.

The "feedback loop"

- ASSET will enable staff to provide both generic and tailored feed-forward and feedback to students.

- ASSET will support students in providing feed-forward for their peers. For example, 'Things I know now that I wish I knew then.'

- ASSET will be piloted at the University of Reading in 2009/10.

- An open-source version of ASSET will also be developed during the course of the project.

For students ASSET will offer:

- An innovative and functional resource for quick access to feedback and feed-forward support for their learning.

- Tailored support for different assessments as appropriate to the stage in their degree programme.

- Opportunities to participate in a feedback 'dialogue' with staff .

- Active encouragement to reflect on their learning experiences.

For staff ASSET will offer:

- A resource to quickly and effectively embed feed-forward and feedback to support learning.

- Opportunities to develop more effective feedback practices.

- Opportunities to reflect upon assessment-related feedback from students.

- Potential for engaging students with institutional PDP activities.

ASSET Team Affiliations

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References

1. ASSET is built using CORE© software, designed by Pentachoron
2. Feed-forward is the process of making clear to students the criteria for gaining marks in a given assignment.
3. Juwah, C. (2004) Enhancing Student Learning Through Effective Formative Feedback. York, The Higher Education Academy (Generic Centre).

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