Jisc Digital Student consultation process: ALT webinar 01/04/14 Findings from Group Four

The question 'What kind of digital experience should institutions offer their students?'

Much of the commenting/discussion in group four was around the ways in which the digital can one of the places that bridges between the university and the wider world. In student experience terms this meant supporting the students in developing digital practices which would reach beyond the immediacy of their course.

This is illustrated by some of the comments posted to the session's whiteboard:

- "Experience in digital skills that will be valued in the 'outside world'."
- "Opportunities to be creative in the context of their discipline."
- "Opportunities to create content which exists beyond the undergraduate experience..."
- "Experience to explore their own presence and to develop their 'digital footprint'."
- "Creating your own content, network."
- "Embed digital literacies in the curriculum and assessment."
- "Ways of emulating digital practices relevant to the workplace different for different disciplines."
- "Experience of making the links between systems meta skills that can be applied in multiple contexts."
- "Help students to think in terms of communities of practice useful even if they change fields after graduation..."

It's noteworthy that the majority of the comments about 'experience' were about providing opportunities and support beyond straight forward accreditation. In the run-up to considering this question we had been discussing the difference between transactional and transformational activities in a learning context. It was clear that the 'experiences' we should be creating/supporting as institutions in digital spaces should be transformational (balancing a leaning towards the transactional by incoming students) - helping students to become legitimate practitioners in their field and supporting them in generating work which is visible in the wider digital environment and relevant to their next life-stage.