

Leicester City - Open Badges - Next Steps

LUCY • MAY 28, 2013

ANONYMOUS
JUNE 20, 2013

Sukhtinder

CELT, DMU

Current plans, we need to evaluate areas related to our CARR model and

how this could work with professional staff development. We may need to consider

consistency across other departments (POD) who my issue badges in relation to staff

development. We need to think about how we award staff as well as awarding course sites

(Blackboard) what impact does this have? What issues also does this raise?

Also thinking about parameters on badge criteria, we would not want to 'close' on areas which could be expanded elsewhere!

I will discuss back with our CELT team how we could move forward. We have the Changing Learning Landscape

project, this could further assist in how we move forward and consider digital literacy across DMU for staff and students

Suggestion for help - copyright on badges advice. How can 'cheaters' be prevented from copying our badges and accrediting themselves.

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Peter Williams (The City of Leicester College)

Really nice idea, particularly am interested in using it in place of some of our existing paper awards (i.e. merits).

Trouble is I would want the system to interact with our existing website, not a third party one like badg.us

How easy is it (are there existing tools) to issue badges from your own schools website?

This would particularly help with the verification of badges, and inherently lend them more value if they can be seen to come from an educational institute rather than a generic badge website.

There needs to be a balance of low level and more valuable badges, to encourage students initially with easy achievable tasks, followed by increasingly difficult and challenging tasks to earn the more worthwhile badges. How could we ensure consistency across the city in this, how can you make it clear which badges are valuable and which are tokens?

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Josie Fraser (LCC)

Hi Peter - the digital badge contains metadata relating to the issuer - so they don't have to be on a providers site. One of the big benefits of Open Badges is that they are owned by learners - the learners still have them/still have access to them once they've left the school or issuing organisation.

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I understand that the verification for the badge says who the issuer is. I just feel that for a badge to carry more weight, it should be clear that the issuer is from a recognised establishment, which isn't true if the verification site is a general one like badg.us. If it was straightforward to set up an implementation of open badges on our schools server then badges would clearly be from TCOLC because the verifying website is actually ours! - Peter

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When will you do these things by?

If you are planning on using open badges, cascading training to colleagues, or holding interanl meetings - LET US KNOW BY WHEN!

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Brenda Bailey English Martyrs School

Explore how curriculum in school for Vocational education can use open badges to accredit learning and achievement. Will need to work with staff to

get people involved.

Working within schools and alongside VESA to develop in the future.

today has given me the opportunity to see how to build and how the badges could work within my school.

Quality and consistency will be something that concerns me but feel confident there is a way round this.

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Heather

Provided a chance for us to discuss some of the

issues: who awards/ the different types of badge - for attendance and achievement (currently at dmu we tend to focus on attendance for training.. only really TFellow route for achievement)

As regards CELT, we have been talking about digital literacies for staff development.

Institutional barriers around 'achievement' in particular -

This would be a good (group/team) project for TiP funding..either to look at Badges for staff or students

(the student side fits in with what is happening through work in DSU).

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Sukhtinder

Hopefully have scoped something by the end of autumn!!

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Gail Brown (Leicestershire Cares)

I will explore the possibility of using Open Badges for our Interview Technique and Employability Skills Pilot Project.

I would need to decide the criteria for which badges are interviewed for candidates e.g. do we issue a badge for each student for attendance or do we issue them for the star candidates only. If so, selection criteria would need to be reviewed and this may award different categories of students to the ones that are issued with 'star' certificates now.

Need to explore further the mechanism for setting up students with claim codes and whether schools would be happy to issue these to students following the event.

May try and use for employability skills pilot project in November and perhaps explore for the next academic year's mock interview project.

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Steve Mackenzie (DMU)

Explore how badges can be crafted into digital literacy training.

Share! Maybe run a short session and badge it up!

Badges can be awarded for simple or complex tasks. Make it clear if it is just a simple badge. If it is more complex make sure it has some value.

Time Scale: very busy at moment - will have to see.

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Ros/DMU

Potential to create a framework to fit with the University's frontrunner (internal placements) scheme.

Great to think about the potential for this for staff too - links with my Teacher Fellow project on professional development in teaching and learning. I will include a question in my questionnaire - to see if this would motivate staff to attend events

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Jo Charlesworth (VESA)

To work collaboratively with training providers and schools to develop badges for Vocational tasters.

We will share our plans through our provider networks and Liaise groups made up of the post 16 sector.

We aim to have open badges available to learners during the Autumn term 2013

VESA will start the development work and share with providers and schools.

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Chris Nixon (South Leicestershire College).

A big part of our plan for the autumn term is to launch the SLC Passport which would be an award gained by students for meeting certain employability criteria. Say 50 hours of voluntary work, 50 hours of part time work, attending a mock interview etc

Digital badges might form a part of this. We need a way that student and we can record their achievements as they go. This way, accumulating a certain number of badges might lead to the "super badge" which is the SLC Passport.

I would like to cascade back to my team and get their opinion. I have a day set aside for development work so if the presentation is available I will use it then. This will be in July.

I share other people concern about consistency across schools and colleges. I'm sceptical this can be achieved. It seems more likely that the badges could work as a way student can articulate their achievements, rather than evidence them.

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Sue Hopewell (Leicester College)

Work with VESA to introduce Open Badges for vocational Taster sessions within the city for Year 10 learners. Also introduce the use of badges to recognise learner achievement for our new Personal and Professional Development programme which focuses on employability skills, however is not linked with a formal qualificatio

I will share the idea with curriculum leaders for introduction in the autumn term.

However this may take some time to develop fully.

Consistency across the city and a commitment from education providers is a concern.

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Tim Dawson (Moat) - Go it alone or work as a board?

Would the students benefit from a system that shared badges across schools?

Would this foster competition or bind us up in admin trying to agree on standards?



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Chris Goldsmith (DMU)

We are exploring badges as a way of accrediting student achievement within a new MOOC on Leadership in a Sustainable World. Clearly we need to think carefully about the design of the ecosystem to allow multiple entry and exit points due to different levels of student engagement with the material. We would also want to decide what level of engagement and attainment would be necessary in order for students to get their learning recognized more formally via the HEAR (Higher Education Achievement Report). I will share what I have learnt today with the other members of the project steering group and then cascade it through training sessions to content providers for the MOOC. The goal is to get this in place by January 2014. It would be useful to think about how important external recognition of this kind of award might be.