Enhancing workplace learning through mobile technology

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Outline

1. Aim and theoretical ideas
2. WPL pedagogy and primacy of student agency
3. Project methodology
4. Workplace cultures and mobile technology
5. Capacity Building Framework development
6. Resources
What are your practices, hopes, fears and barriers around mobile technology in workplace learning?
Project Aim

To help students make better use of their personal mobile devices for workplace learning
Theoretical underpinnings

- Fostering the development of students’ agency in WPL  
  Billett, 2011

- Designing for predictable and emerging practices  
  Goodyear & Markauskaite, 2012

- Drawing on an expansive understanding of the entangled relationships between learning, technology and work  
  Orlikowski, 2007
What is WPL?

Workplace learning refers to students’ active participation and **purposeful engagement** with **real world** professional roles and responsibilities in authentic workplace environments supported by sound **learning and teaching strategies** and **appropriate supervision**.

**Student agency is key to good WPL**
Student Agency

• taking purposeful initiative
• not feeling helpless
• determination, efficacy, reflexivity
• capacity for deliberate and thoughtful action.
• enables productive learning in complex, unpredictable environments

Park, 2011; Hitlin & Elder, 2007
MT affordances to enable learner agency

- Accessing
- Sharing
- Building
- Co-creating
- Supporting
- Managing
- Across settings
- Across time
Methodology

• **Target:** Students, workplace educators and academics in health and education courses with WPL components.

• **Phase 1:** Surveyed 77 participants’ practices and perceptions of PMD use for learning on placement.

• **Phase 2:** Received feedback from 214 participants on resources designed...
What type of mobile devices did you use for your WPL placement? (If you used several devices, please select all answers that apply)

- Answered: 27    Skipped: 1

[Bar chart showing the distribution of device usage:]

- Smartphone (with apps, internal) - 74%
- Mobile phone (with text) - 7%
- Tablet (iPad, Slate, etc.) - 33%
- eBook reader (Kindle, etc.) - 7%
- Laptop - 59%
- Do not use any mobile devices - 4%
- Other (please specify) - 7%
Which of the following types of apps did you use for your WPL placement and what for? (Please select as many as apply)

- Answered: 15    Skipped: 13

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<thead>
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<th>Activity</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Skype</th>
<th>Chat</th>
<th>University online platform/Forum</th>
<th>Facebook</th>
<th>Instagram</th>
<th>Pinterest</th>
<th>Twitter</th>
<th>Other social networks</th>
<th>Blog</th>
<th>Wiki</th>
<th>Virtual Labs</th>
<th>Second Life</th>
<th>Other simulation</th>
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</table>
How confident would you rate your skills in using mobile technology?

Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Confident</th>
<th>Very confident</th>
<th>Somewhat unconfident</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45% (13)</td>
<td>52% (15)</td>
<td>3% (1)</td>
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WPL Educators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very confident</th>
<th>Confident</th>
<th>Neither confident</th>
<th>Somewhat unconfident</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31% (4)</td>
<td>31% (4)</td>
<td>23% (3)</td>
<td>3% (3)</td>
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</table>
Was the policy of your workplace regarding mobile device use explained to you?

Is there a policy for mobile technology use in your workplace?

Students

WPL Educators
Phase 1 findings

- High use of mobile devices
- High confidence in using mobile devices
- Many opportunities to use mobile devices
- Positive impact on connection and learning
  
  **BUT** there is a need for…

- Better preparation and training
- Implementation of policies and guidelines
- More reliable internet access
- Broader integration
- Focus on people and pedagogy
Phase 2 findings

• Research and resources are needed
• Need more specific examples
• Provide more visual summaries and brief tips
• Integrate in curriculum and assessment

However

• Still some scepticism as to whether MT can enhance WPL Or that students, WPEs and/or academics what to learn with MT.
Mobile Technology Capacity Building Framework

• To enhance students’ learning from WPL experiences
• To increase students’ agency while on placement. It has been designed to help students, academic teachers and WPEs.
• To achieve a shared understanding of students’ use of MT in WPL
• No app
Mobile Technology Capacity Building Framework for WPL

5 agency dimensions

Sense making

Awareness raising

7 teaching resources

Deepening reflection

Staying professional & safe

Planning learning activities

Considering issues of time & place

Engaging

Planning learning activities

Networking

Initiating dialogue

Creating learning opportunities on the go

Acting

Purposeful planning

Student resource

Navigating the WPL landscape
Awareness Raising

- Staying professional and safe
- Considering issues of time and place
Purposeful Planning

- Planning learning activities ahead of time
- Initiating dialogue
Engaging and Acting

- Initiating dialogue
- Networking
- Creating learning opportunities on the go
Deepening reflection

• Debrief with online learning groups
  • Ask questions
• Share and compare experiences
Bibliography


Acknowledgment

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Thank you

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Project website, resources & blog
https://wpltech.wordpress.com/

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