AVAILABLE, INTUITIVE AND FREE! MINING WEB 2.0 TO BUILD AN ELEARNING MODULE

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Background:

As medical educators we noted a wide range of evidence based medicine (EBM) and critical appraisal knowledge, skills and attitudes in GP registrars. This made face-to-face teaching on this topic awkward. To better prepare our learners we decided to develop web-based learning modules. However, translating design and content ideas into a useable product can be technically challenging, especially in the absence of information technology (IT) support or a learning management system. There is little published literature on the use of web 2.0 services to build eLearning activities.

Aims/objective:

To use web 2.0 tools and solutions to build an evidence based medicine and critical appraisal online course.

To evaluate the acceptability and usefulness of this course to GP registrars.

Methods/approach:

We used and integrated a number of free web 2.0 services including: Prezi, a web-based presentation platform; YouTube, a video sharing service; Google Docs, an online document platform; Tiny.cc, a URL shortening service; and Wordpress, a blogging platform.

Registrar users of the module will be surveyed.

Results/findings:

The course consisting of five multimedia-rich, tutorial-like modules was built without IT specialist assistance or specialised software. The web 2.0 services used were free. The course can be accessed with a modern web browser.

Survey results are pending.

Discussion:

Modern web 2.0 services remove many of the technical barriers for creating and sharing content on the internet. When used synergistically, these services can be a flexible and low-cost platform for building eLearning activities. They were a pragmatic solution in our context.