Using rich-media materials to enhance teaching of core concepts

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Introduction and context

Full-time taught MSc programme – 300 students, 85% non-native English speakers

Aim: supplement face-to-face lectures with a set of rich-media materials covering core concepts

Previous research focused on one rich-media material at a time – no systematic comparison of several formats each delivering same material.
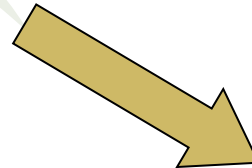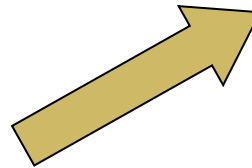
The types of rich-media

- Audio podcasts

- Audio narrated slides

- Video segments

- Full-lecture capture

The approach we took

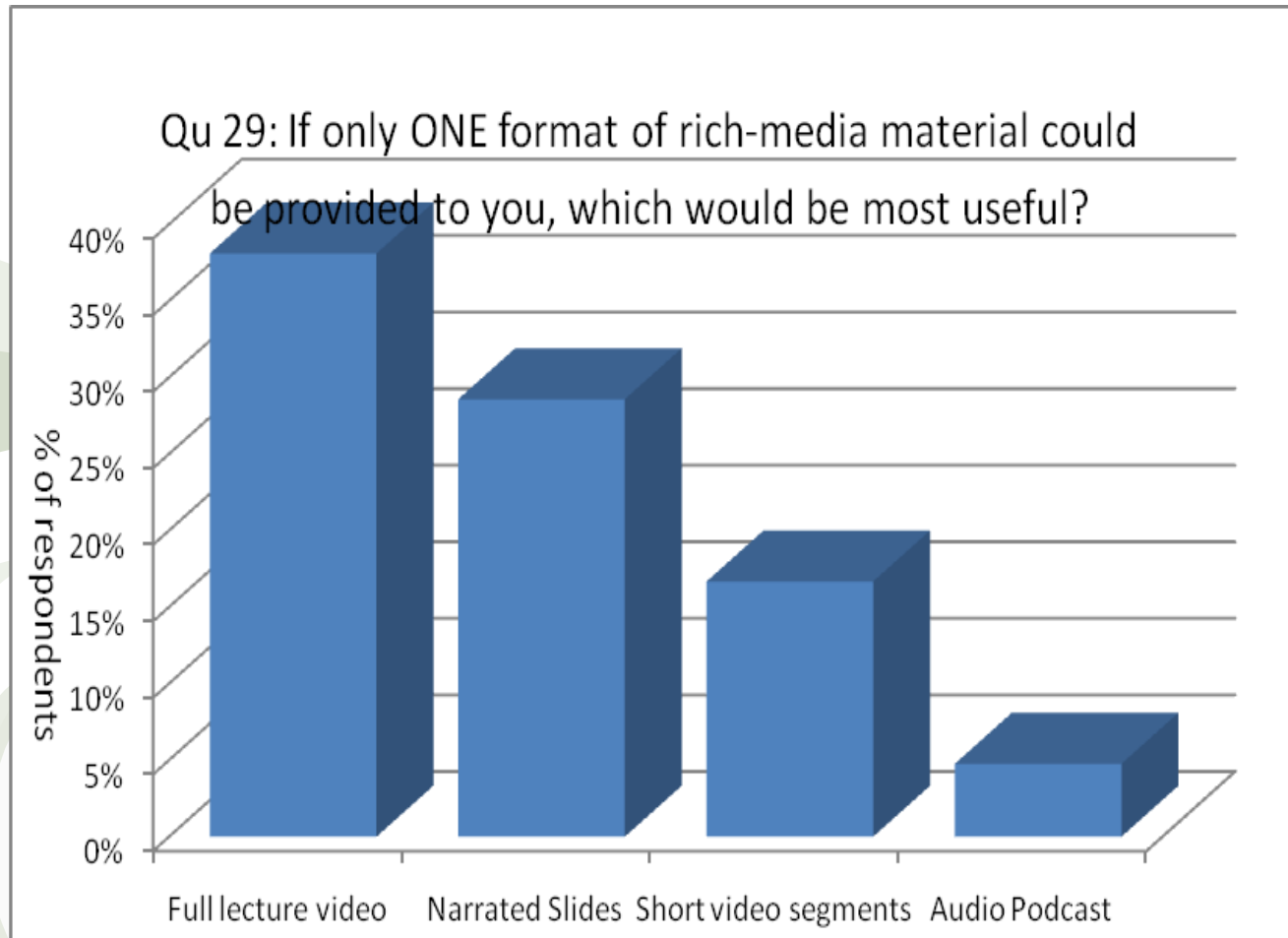Piloted on one unit in semester 1, 2011/12

Data collected from students via web-based questionnaire and focus groups

Research questions:
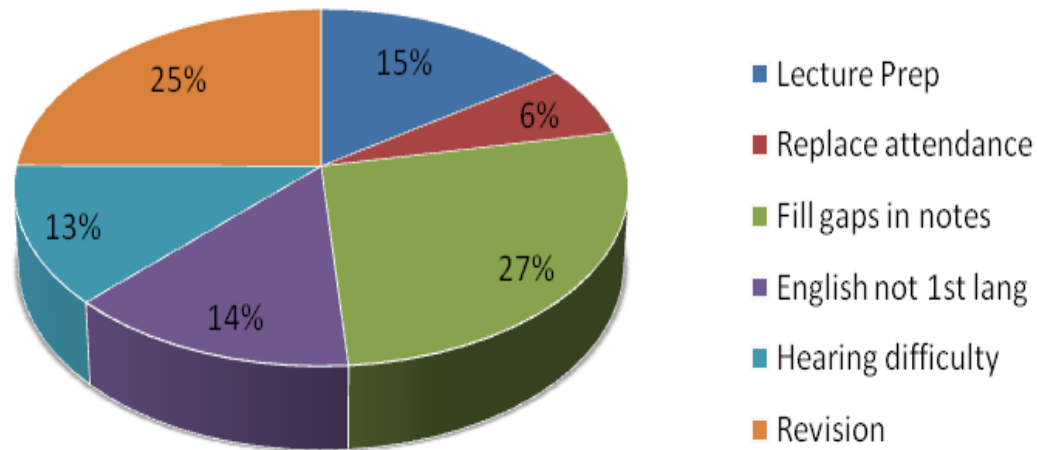
1. Which rich-media materials did the students prefer and why?
2. To what extent did the materials aid student learning?
3. What did students use rich-media materials for?
4. How did the rich-media materials compare to face-to-face lectures as a tool for learning?

Findings

Qu 29: If only ONE format of rich-media material could be provided to you, which would be most useful?

Findings

Conclusions and recommendations

- Full lecture video capture most popular– served as a "comfort blanket to students"

- Given resource constraints, audio narrated slides are a good second best

- Used to supplement note-taking and as revision aids

- Rich-media materials aided learning, but could not replace face-to-face lectures

- Less lecture time spent on one-way delivery of course content and repeated explanations

- No noticeable impact on lecture attendance

- Students requested more concepts covered and more units

Next steps

Dissemination of projects across EPS and wider academic community

Use of narrated slides for core concepts rolled out across MSc in Management of Projects

Beginning to roll out across MSc Project Management Professional Development Programme

Investigate the relationship between student learning styles and preference for different rich-media materials

Further information

Read the full paper….

Richness, responsiveness and relationship: Using rich-media materials to enhance teaching of core concepts, download from:
http://cede.lboro.ac.uk/ee2012/papers/ee2012_submission_125_rdp.pdf

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