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Symposium: The Future for E-assessment: Assessing Skills in more Immediate Ways

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Abstract

E-assessment, defined broadly as the use of technologies to support assessment, is developing rapidly. In particular examination boards and educational institutions such as universities are making increasing use of computerised summative assessments to support efficiency gains in marking, delivery and data analysis. At the same time feedback opportunities with new technologies are being harnessed to support formative assessment, both through instant computerised feedback and through supporting dialogic interaction both in online and face-to-face feedback discussions.

The discussion will focus on students' needs and consider issues and solutions in relation to the main question: how can we make assessments more supportive and useful for students?

Key subsidiary questions that will be addressed by the speakers include:

- How important is the medium in which the examinations are taken? What are the benefits and limitations of students being enabled to take traditional-style examinations using their own portable devices rather than pencil and paper?
- What does a post-paper assessment look like and how do the affordances of digital assessment help transform curriculum?
- Should we move towards more performance-based assessments if we can develop the psychometrics to enable such assessments in online spaces using digital media and tools? What would be the advantages and limitations of this approach?
- To what extent can peer assessment support both formative and summative assessment?

- Should approaches to assessment change through the different age sectors or are the main factors affecting the choice of assessment tasks and approaches subject specific?

Audience participation will be a major element in this session in which there will be an introduction followed by three (approximately 20 min) presentations with practical examples allowing approximately 20 minutes for discussion within a 90 min session.

Biography



Mary Webb is Chair of IFIP Working Group 3.3 on Research and Senior Lecturer in IT in Education at King's College London where her teaching and research interests are focused on pedagogy with ICT, professional development of teachers in the use of ICT, use of computer-mediated-communication for Teacher Education and formative e-assessment. She is currently Director of the Computer Science PGCE Programme and the King's College London Virtual Worlds SIG.

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