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Conference or Workshop Item

Title: Student perspectives on technology supporting the transition out from University

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http://nectar.northampton.ac.uk/6095/

NECTAR

Student perspectives on technology supporting the transition out from University

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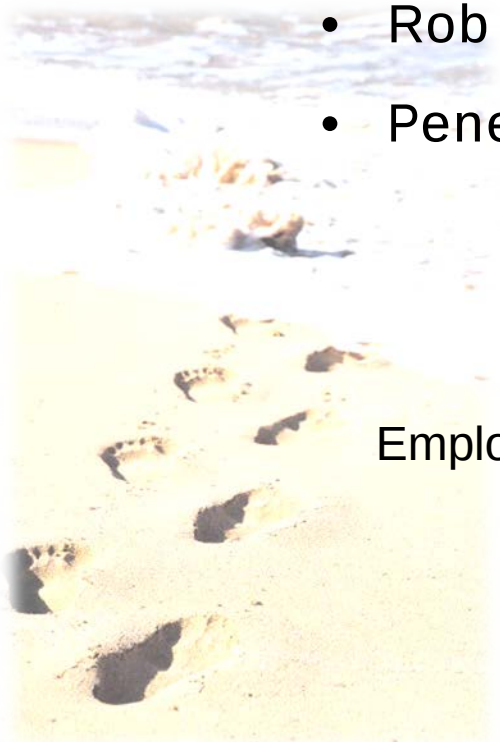


Employer Engagement in a Digital Age - 4th July 2012

What is TOP

- Transition Out (TO?) was a six month intensive investigation.
- Funded as part of the URB@N project.
- Looking at how students want to use (or are already using) technology which will assist as they look towards completing their course and moving into employment or other future opportunities.

Why ToP

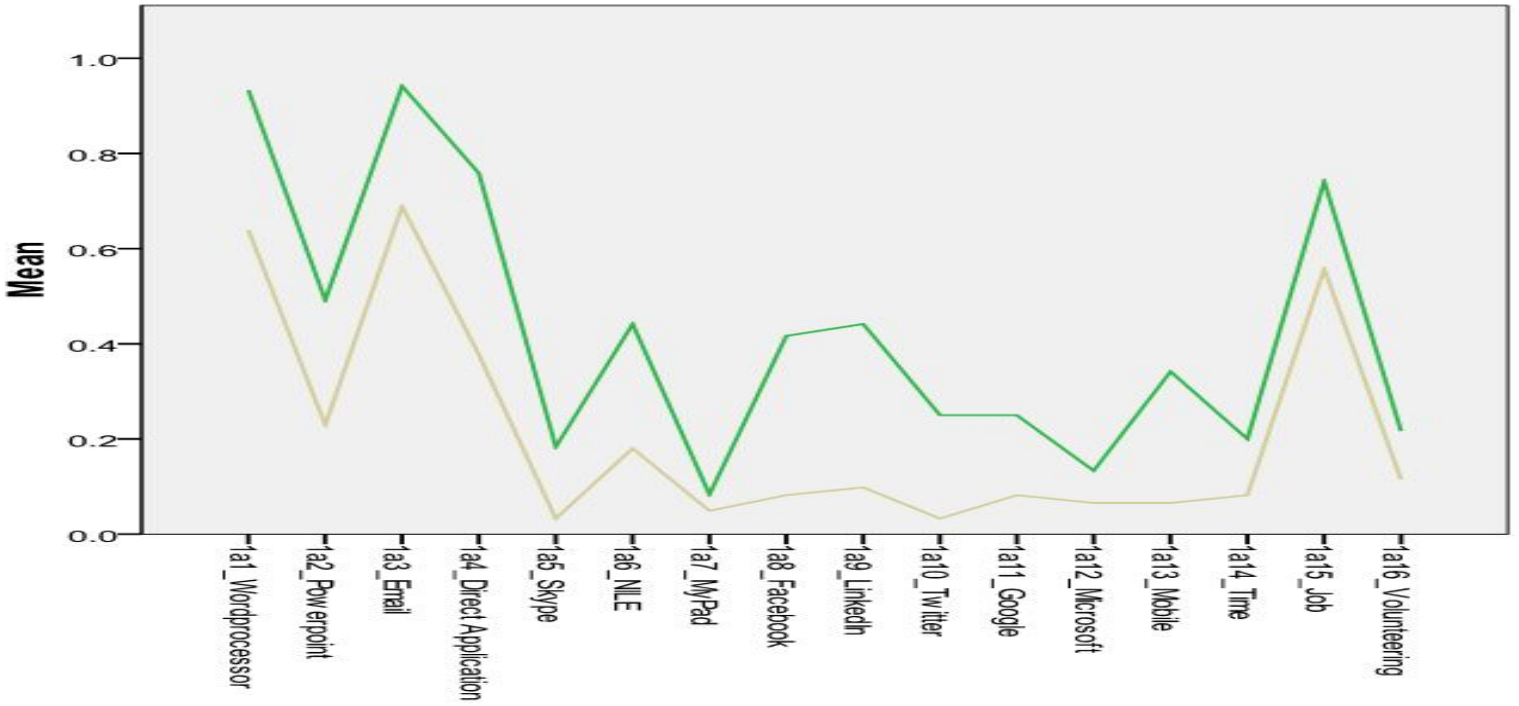
- Students may not realise that the activities they are doing will assist with their transitions – they might be actively collaborating with peers using time management or planning tools, or generally enhancing their skills and experience using a range of technology.
- Students may not appreciate how some of their activities create digital footprints which can impact on future opportunities.

What TOP found

N=214

- Word processing (85%) and email (88%) are the most popular technologies to support students as they leave the institution.
- Students under the age of 30 are more likely to use technology than those over this age (sig < 0.05)
- Males are tending to use technology to find future opportunities more than females (sig <0.05)
- 66% had suffered from a lack of knowledge / confidence with the use of technology, however 22% would not seek out resources supplied by the University to help them improve their skills

Chart showing the difference in technology use between those over (red line) or under 30 (Green line).



Student Comments.....

I use MyPad [e-portfolio] to record what I'm doing in my working life and in my student life.. I can use that to update my CV or think about it when I'm applying for jobs...

I think students need to be a lot more aware of what people can and can't see on FaceBook

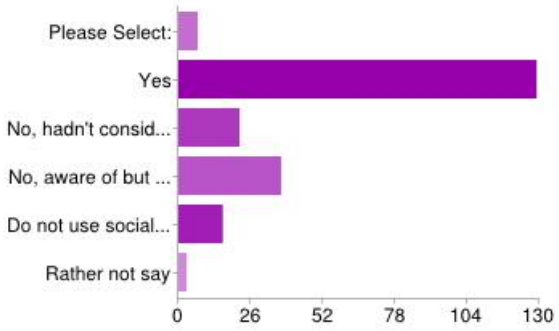
I always use my university email address to contact potential employers... to seem more professional

I set up my email account on my iPhone, so every time I receive the email I can check it immediately, ...so I won't lose any opportunity

Is digital reputation considered important ?

- Some students do consider their digital reputation either just on email or also on Facebook.
- 17% of respondents are aware that they could change settings but are not concerned……

3. Have you modified privacy features on social networking platforms to prevent potential/current empoyers accessing private information?



Please Select:	7	3%
Yes	129	60%
No, hadn't considered their impact	22	10%
No, aware of but not concerned	37	17%
Do not use social networking platforms	16	7%
Rather not say	3	1%

5 Key messages for students CURBS

1. **C**lose down items which employers should not be able to see
2. **U**se technology which will enhance your prospects
3. **R**ecord evidence which will enhance your portfolio
4. **B**e professional/ First impressions (KittyKatLOL@me.com is not going to give the best first impression!)
5. **S**eek help when needed

Thanks for listening

Any questions ?

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