

Building an Online Skills Hub for the University of Northampton

Georgina Dimmock, Research Active LLS Conference, 19th June, 2012
<http://studyskillshub.wordpress.com>

Translating our face-to-face academic student support into the online environment

- Targeted skills workshops, with a problem centred approach
- 1:1 support at point of need
- Pastoral, personal and relationship building
- Covering academic study skills, information skills, ICT skills....and possibly life skills and employability skills too

Why?

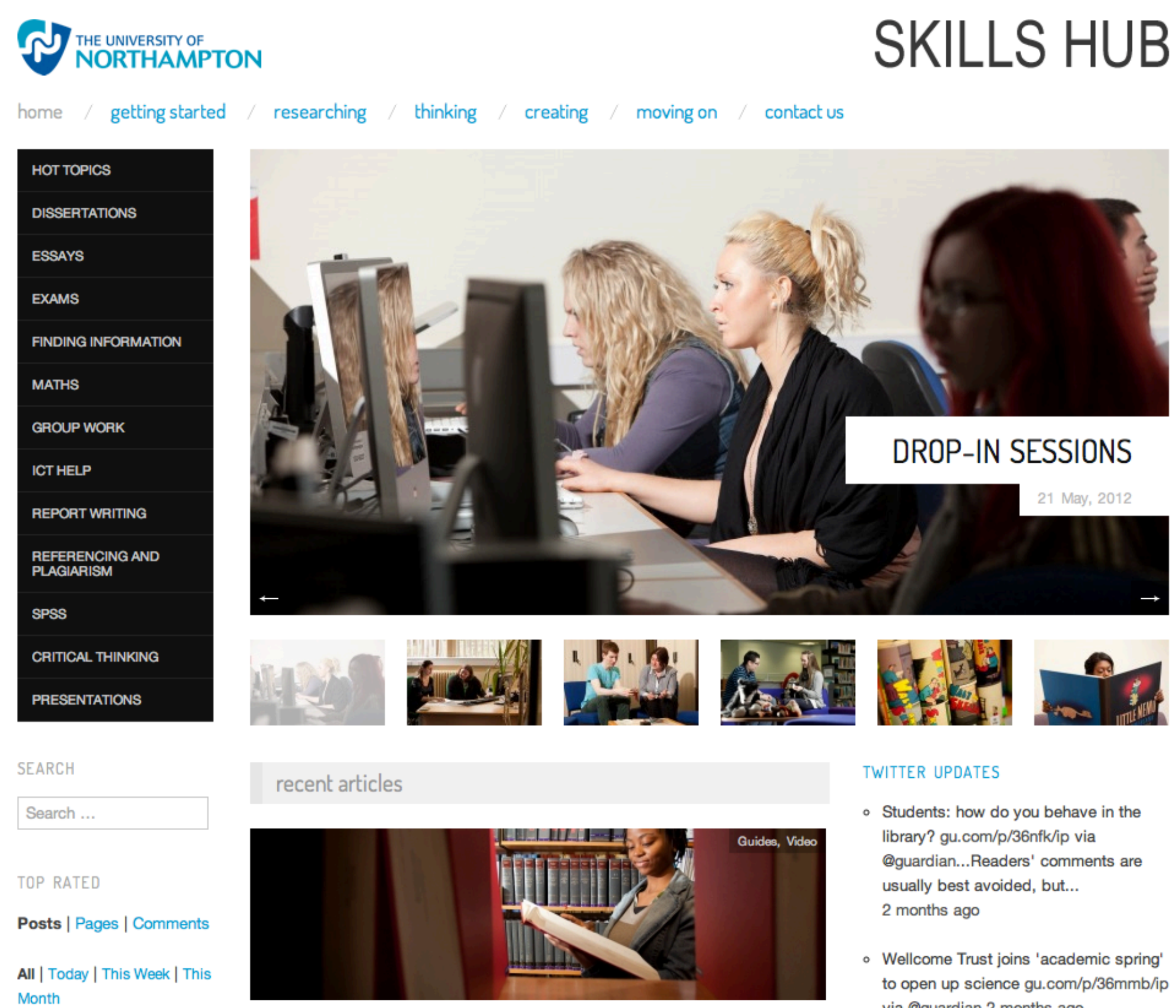
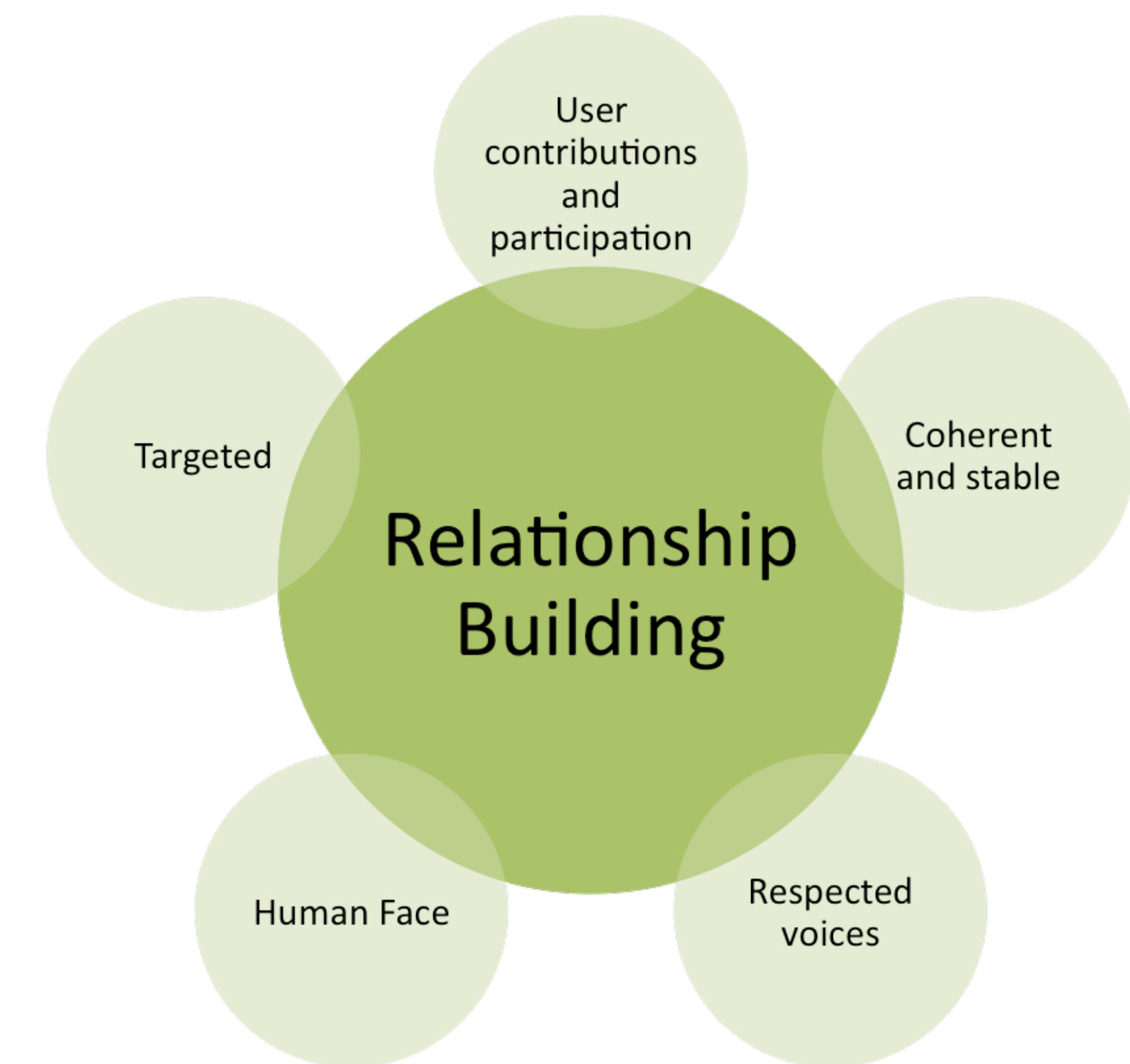
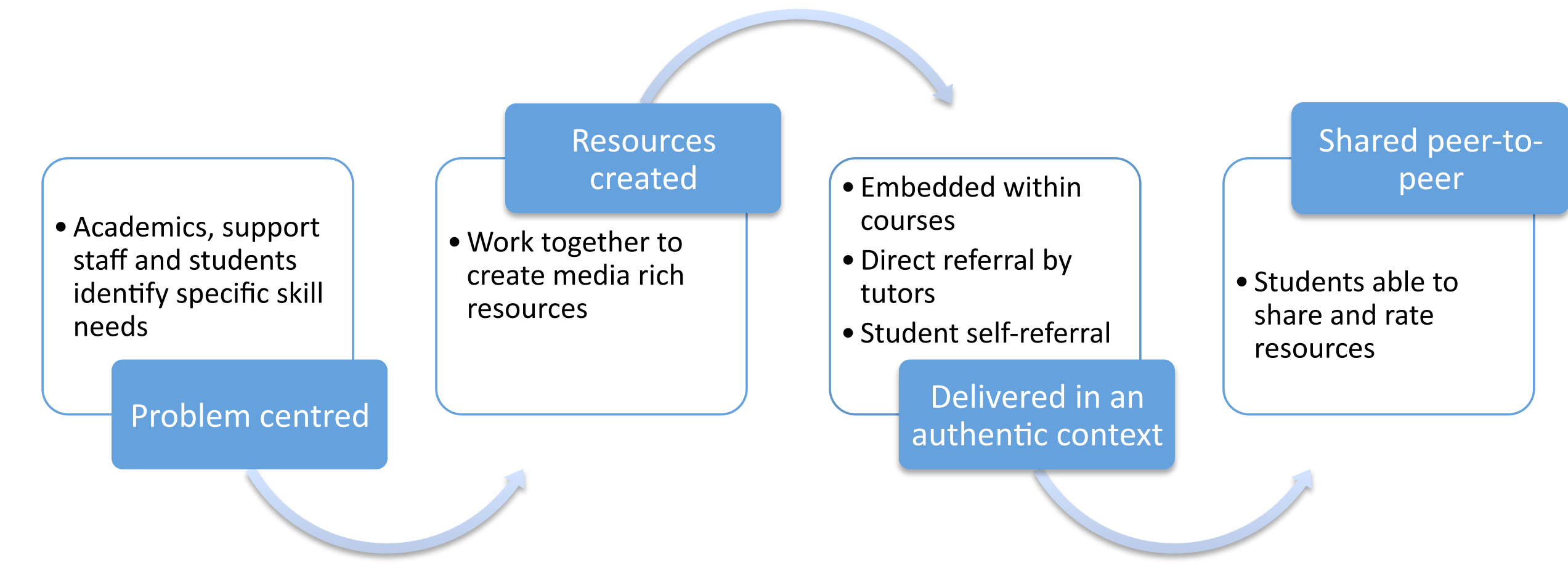
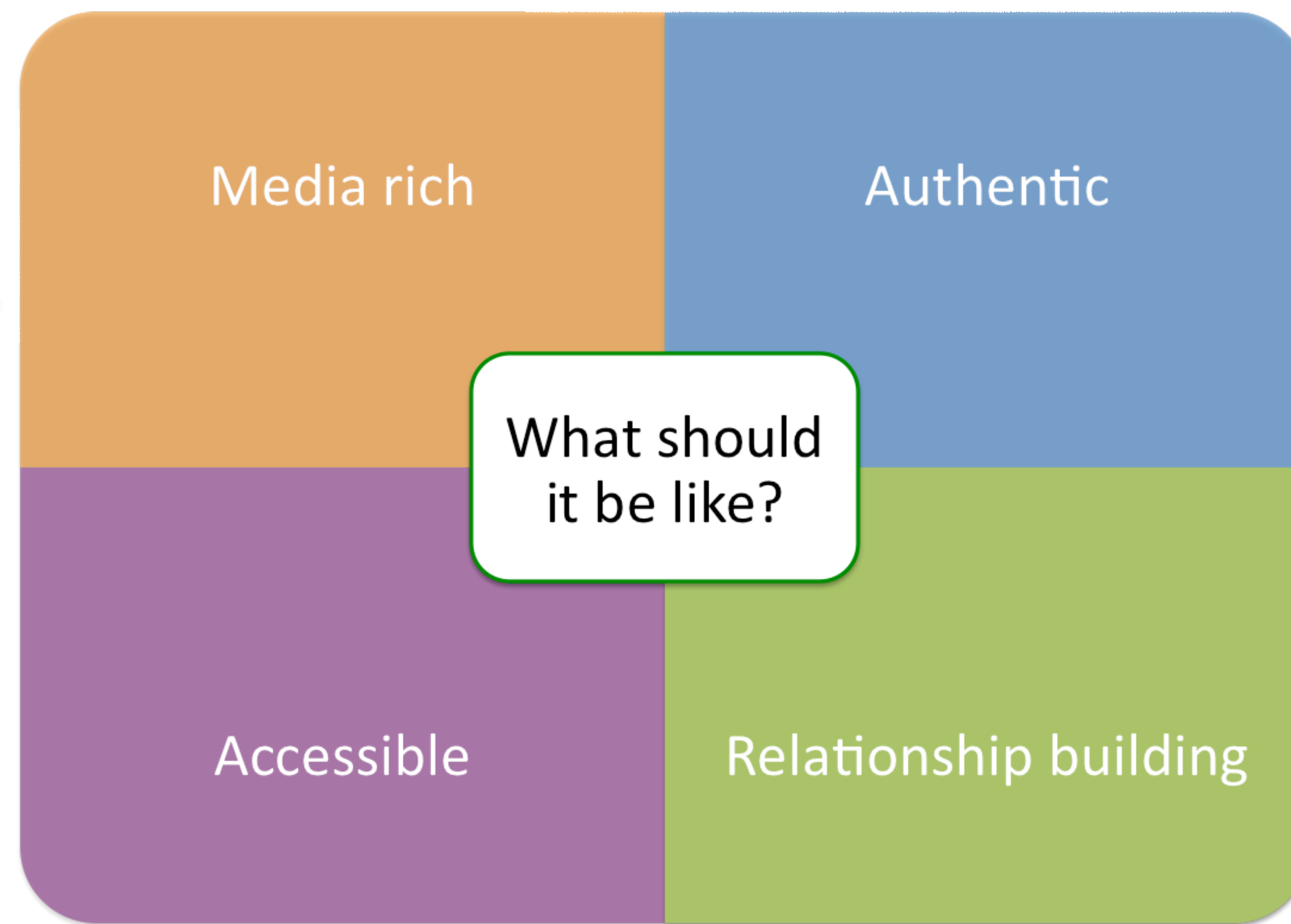
- Volume of students and demand
- Need to be 24/7 and available at point of need
- To provide a selection of tools and materials for academic staff to embed
- We operate in a media rich environment, where online support using varied media has become the norm

What's going on elsewhere?



21 st century new ways of thinking and knowing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shift from print to screen • Hyperlinked, hybrid and networked • New media literacy • Design mindset
Varied media and participative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video and audio • Visualisations • Self-tests and demonstrations • Social networking • Participative, with the ability to rate content
Critical audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media savvy student audience • Quality control and review process needed

Mobile <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usable on a smartphone or slate • Usable on iPads and iPhones • HTML5, rather than Flash 	International and Distance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting the needs of international students • Providing a rich, meaningful experience for distance learners • Awareness of sites blocked in particular countries, e.g. YouTube, Google 	Accessibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible versions • Transcripts • Audio commentaries • Awareness of the digital divide
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SKILLS HUB

- What's the the plan?
 - Structure; build exemplar content; build critical mass
- We are here! Structure
 - Interface and system design: headings, structure, architecture, sharing, tagging, ratings
- Begin Content Creation
 - Create exemplar content
 - Harvest content from elsewhere
- Critical Content Mass
 - Identify priority student skill needs
 - Rapid development teams create content



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