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Making Digital Badging Work: Lessons from an Irish HE Context

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Making Digital Badging Work
Lessons from an Irish Higher Education Context

Roisin Donnelly, Colin Lowry, Terry Maguire

9th Annual SMSN Symposium
Edinburgh Napier University
2 June 2017

National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education
Dublin
Making Digital Badging Work: Lessons from an Irish HE Context

Abstract
This presentation will discuss a current initiative taking place within the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in higher education Ireland in the area of integrating digital badging (or micro-credentials) into professional development for all who teach and support learning in Irish Higher Education. Particular attention will be given to explaining how the entire process for digital badging works: from decisions taken on what can be badged, to how it is formally taken to the stage of offering a digital badge to HEIs.

In 2017, the National Forum brought together 15 teams of educators from universities, institutes of technology and private colleges to collaborate on the development of digital badges in specialist areas where they have significant, recognized expertise. This presentation will share the lessons we have learnt during this process about digital badging, including the importance of content, providing choice for participants to evidence their learning and the early consideration of sectoral recognition, providing support for development teams including opportunities for peer review. In addition the presentation will share what and how the technology supports or directs the process including designing, awarding badges and hosting badge programme content for easy dissemination.

Existing research has shown that teachers who earn micro-credentials do want to earn more of them—97% of post-course survey respondents indicated that they wanted to pursue another micro-credential in the future. In our context, it would be interesting to research how earning these micro-credentials can impact teachers’ PD and practice, as well as identifying necessary levers and existing barriers for scaling the use of digital badging for continued learning opportunities for the Irish HE sector.
Enhancing Teaching & Learning

- Partnership & Collaboration
- Building Digital Capacity
- Professional Development
- Learning Impact Awards
- Scholarship in T&L

teachingandlearning.ie
Professional Development

A National Approach to Professional Development for those who teach in Higher Education
NPDEG

10 Members
Univ, IoTi and HECA reps
First Meeting 23/11/16

20 National Pilot Groups
Resource development

Digital Badges
Nationally Recognised Badges
Open Access Resource Packs for Sector

T&L Fund 2016
001- PD for leaders and
digital champions
002- PD Discipline Level
003-Alignment and Enhancement

Professional Recognition Framework Autumn 2017
Towards a model of digital badge development

- **Expressions of Interest**: 75 wide range of popular and current T&L topics
  - **Dec 2016**

- **Badges Development Workshop**: 28/2/17, 15 selected
  - **Feb 2017**

- **Peer Review**: A panel of supportive peer reviewers will give feedback on badge content
  - **Support**

- **Technology**: Role of All-Aboard: The graphic design and logo for the digital badges will be provided via the NF
  - **May 2017**

- **Building Capacity**: Badge developers will facilitate a workshop (date TBC) for those who wish to deliver the badge content in their institution
  - **Facilitating Institutional workshops**
Phase 1: Feb-April 2017
- T&L for for Post Doc's/RFs
- Student Transition (First Yr)
- Online Identity
- Student Retention
- Disciplinary Badges
- Digital Leadership/Learning Technologies
- Career Development
- Campus Sustainability
- Avoiding Plagiarism
- Blended Learning
- Assessment: OF, FOR, AS Learning

Phase 2: further expressions of interest
- Academic Writing
- Entrepreneurship
- Developing PD Provision for Irish HE
- Intercultural Awareness
- Mentoring for Leadership in T&L
- Getting Started with Online Teaching
- PhD Supervision
- Programme Design/Re-design
- Programme-focused Assessment
- Policy in HE
- Reflecting on Teaching
- Student Engagement
- Teaching Strategies for New Lecturers
- Universal Design
- Community Engagement
National Digital Badge System

Badge Package:
- Criteria that must be met to be awarded the badge
- A short video outlining the area of development
- A workshop package that would enable any institution to deliver the PD programme
- Links to useful websites and resources

Each badge represents approximately 25 hours of learner effort

Mentoring in T&L
Lynn Ramsey, Letterkenny IoT and Paul Gormley, NUI Galway
Why Open Badges?

• Visual representation of an achievement or skill

• **Open Badges are evidence-based.**

  Encoded/encrypted containing
  – Who awarded badge
  – Exactly what the holder had to do
  – Examples of their work

• Standards compatible with range of – ePortfolios – LMS/VLE
  – Social (& Professional) networks (eg LinkedIn)

• Increasingly recognised by employers & professional bodies
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**Image CC BY-SA Kyle Bowen**
Open Badge Infrastructure (OBI)

- Issuers
  - Websites
  - Organizations
  - Education Providers

- Authentication / Claim Making
- User Hub
- Displayers
  - Websites
  - (e.g., personal blog, profiles, social networking sites, resumes)

- Backpack / Data Wallet
- Badges

- Independent and agnostic. Outside of Mozilla infrastructure.
- User consents to accept badges into hub, as well as to send to site for display.
Open Badge Passport

- Capturing badges, storing CVs, linking to publications and allowing re-export to other platforms (e.g. LinkedIn), embedding in websites, etc.
- OBI Compliant
PD Digital Badges – What Next?

- Piloting stage for the badge delivery, and beta versions of the badges
- PD Portal / Delivery Suite (June 2017)
- Delivery of the 15 PD workshops (September 2017)
- Phase 2, anticipated later in 2017