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Research and Teaching – correlated or co-related?

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Abstract Template

Using Electronic Laboratory Notebooks to Promote Student Research Mentoring and Monitoring

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Theme: Developing student research skills

Type of contribution: Showcase

Abstract:

Undergraduate students in the Department of Biological Sciences at Hull, as at other universities, complete a 20-credit laboratory research project in their final year that is designed to expose them to the ethos and practice of scientific research. All research scientists keep laboratory notebooks as a record of their activities, and this principle is incorporated into student projects as part of their assessment. Here I describe my experiences employing Web2.0 electronic laboratory notebooks (ELNs) in my own research laboratory, and explore the benefits and challenges of interacting with research project students through this medium. I conclude, based on experience with project students over the last 3 years that new approaches to extending ELN teaching methods can be very productive indeed, leading to benefits of time-management, organization, feedback and transferable skills for students (and the academic staff supervising them).