Engaging stakeholders with new technology for teaching and learning

During the second year of the INTEGRATE project in the University of Exeter Business School, trials of new technologies have continued. The project team has worked hard to build and maintain good relationships and this we feel has been crucial to our success. Our focus remains on the three project objectives:

- How to promote a learning ethos in which students actively participate, engage and feel known
- How to manage assessment and feedback with large numbers
- How to promote a collaborative community in which diversity is both valued and well-catered for

The ten strategies we have found most useful for engaging stakeholders are:

1. **Focussing on building relationships:** it has been vital to focus on building positive working relationships as quickly as possible so that the **momentum** and ethos of the project is strong and can be maintained when challenges arise.

2. **Working with key administrative staff:** many administrative staff directly support staff and students and are vital to supporting the project work, particularly as it develops beyond the **boundaries** of the project.

3. **Linking with broader IT services:** building positive links with central IT support, desktop support and the web team at the University has provided expert **backup** for the project team.

4. **Being positive**: the INTEGRATE project team have provided a lot of **informal support** for Business School staff and have been excellent listeners, always working from the ground up.

5. **Connecting colleagues together to share their use of technology in practice:** showing staff how their colleagues are working and **finding time** for staff to discuss their practice has been a simple and effective way to encourage innovation.

6. **Co-facilitating sessions alongside teaching fellows:** being in a lecture theatre or tutorial situation alongside teaching fellows has increased their **confidence** to try using different technologies themselves.

7. **Changing location:** simply moving our location into the Business School at certain times during the week increased formal and informal links with a wide range of staff across the Business School and helped maintain and **develop conversation** around the project.

8. **Employing recent graduates to support student projects:** we employed a student projects leader, a recent graduate from the Business School who brought a **new perspective** to our work and had a major impact on project development.

9. **Co-writing papers for publication:** we always try and co-author papers with our practitioner colleagues.

10. **Addressing any difficulties as soon as they arise:** as a project team, we discuss any **challenges** (with technology or people or processes) informally and work hard to find positive ways forward.

10 minute tool for thinking about engaging stakeholders with new technologies

Consider the extent to which the INTEGRATE project strategies for engaging stakeholders apply in your own project context. You might find it helpful to classify the strategies according to the following criteria:

A = We already use this strategy effectively
B = We use this strategy but could develop it further
C = We don't use this strategy but should try it
D = This is not useful in our context

What other strategies have you found useful for engaging stakeholders ?

	Strategies for engaging stakeholders with using new technologies	A-D
1	Focussing on building relationships	
2	Working with key administrative staff	
3	Linking with broader IT services	
4	Being positive	
5	Connecting colleagues together	
6	Co-facilitating sessions alongside teaching fellows	
7	Changing location	
8	Employing recent graduates	
9	Co-writing papers for publication	
10	Addressing any difficulties as soon as they arise	
	Other strategies that work well in our context	
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