

LEARNING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OVERVIEW FORM

Project title	Using WebCT to develop a postgraduate research methods module		Project ID No	CLAD – HIST069
Strategy area/theme	Pubic policy			
Start date	June 2006	Completion date	May 2008	
Project type	Learner enhancement project			
Level		Programme of study	Public Service MBA	
Aims	The project is aimed at designing and implementing in WebCT a two-week Research Methods module which will introduce students to social science research methods, focusing particularly on approaches to studies in organisational, development and governance contexts. The module will be delivered online, through a combination of theoretical discussion of key concepts and approaches; guided group discussions and practical tasks drawn from fields relevant to the students' interests. There is no formal assessment for this module.			
Overview	<p>Research methods is a core element for any student undertaking postgraduate work on both taught and research programmes. IDD currently runs a research methods module for its on campus students, during the first couple of months of their programme.</p> <p>However, we now need to develop a WebCT version of this for delivery on our distance learning Masters programmes (two programmes at the moment, with more coming on board).</p> <p>A number of our distance learning students (those on the Public Service MBA) are middle to senior management, from 30 years and older, with little or no experience of carrying out research at postgraduate level. As distance learners, they also require a great deal more support and 'hand holding' than the average on campus student. The online Research Methods Module will run for two weeks at the start of the students' six month research project (which leads to their dissertation), after they have completed all their assessed DL modules. This module will not be assessed.</p> <p>Once this module has been developed for online delivery to the distance learning students, it is hoped that it will prove to be a valuable resource for our on campus students too. As the on campus students study research methods at the beginning of their programme, and it is several months later that they go off on their fieldwork, access to online RM information during their time overseas would complement what they had learned on campus</p>			
Further Information	<p>For further information on this project please contact CLAD at University of Birmingham</p> <p>cladprojects@contacts.bham.ac.uk quoting CLAD projects HIST069</p>			