HOCHSCHULE RHEIN-WAAL
Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences

TECHNOLOGY & BIONICS

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

NEWSLETTER

New Semester – New Opportunities

by Naomi Mc Laughlan

Welcome to the faculty of Technology and Bionics 'Digital Transformation' newsletter, at the Hochschule Rhein-Waal / Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences.

Today's newsletter focuses on highlighting the new video hosting- and streaming platform educast and the option to register for a free educator account with the interactive whiteboard platform MURAL.
Furthermore, I will introduce the new multimedia-based learning bites and live Q&A sessions.
And finally, I will share news on the "Wir stärken Mädchen" podcast project in collaboration with the Gesamtschule am Forstgarten, in Kleve.

If you require assistance with your e-learning projects, please feel free to contact me via Webex-Meetings or send me an email to; naomi.mclaughlan@hochschule-rhein-waal.de.

educast

educast.nrw is a project that aims to enable and support digital video-based e-learning for public higher education institutions in North Rhine-Westphalia and is funded by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia as part of the "Digitale Hochschule NRW" program. The educast.nrw video service cooperates with ORCA.nrw and supports the production and exchange of OER video content for participating institutions (educast.nrw, 2022).

Key features of educast include;

- The open source software Opencast is used for educast.nrw video recordings, via a plugin in Moodle.
- Videos of various file sizes can be uploaded directly via the educast plugin.
- Videos are created in a repository, sorted into so-called "series", and can be selected there.
- More than one series can be created per course.
- The repository is course-wide and not specific assigned to users.

Please note, unlike on YouTube, live streaming is not yet possible, therefore only pre-saved video files can be uploaded.

If you require technical support, you can contact Mr Boris Foko Kamdem (substitute: Julian Kut) and for the use of content and license settings, please contact Mr Sven-Niklas August.

MURAL

MURAL is an online based whiteboard software, that can be utilized as a teaching tool in higher education. Cohorts of students can work collaboratively as a team, while using a visually attractive digital canvas.

Members of a cohort can work simultaneously together in different places, while the boards are shareable also.

As a teaching resource, this digital tool can be used, for example, to enable students to brainstorm solutions to their problems or challenges or to create simple but comprehensive diagrams and work on ideas virtually.

MURAL is free for educators.

The education workspace account includes the following key features:
- One workspace with open and private rooms.
- Unlimited murals.
- 25 external guests.
- Unlimited visitors – no sign-in required.
- Up to 100 memberships.
- Live webinars and a dedicated space in the MURAL Community.

To apply for a free education workspace and to find out more, please visit; https://www.mural.co/education.

T&B Digitalization Learning Bites

From March 16th, you can access a weekly multimedia-based, digitalization learning bite via the T&B blog. The aim of the learning bites is to provide you with training and information about what software and apps you may want to give a try and how to utilize those, to create multimedia-based content in a time efficient way.

The learning bites will cover, for example, how to create audio clips, how to create visually engaging content, how to create blogs, how to create wikis to create participatory spaces for students, and how to create non-traditional quizzes.
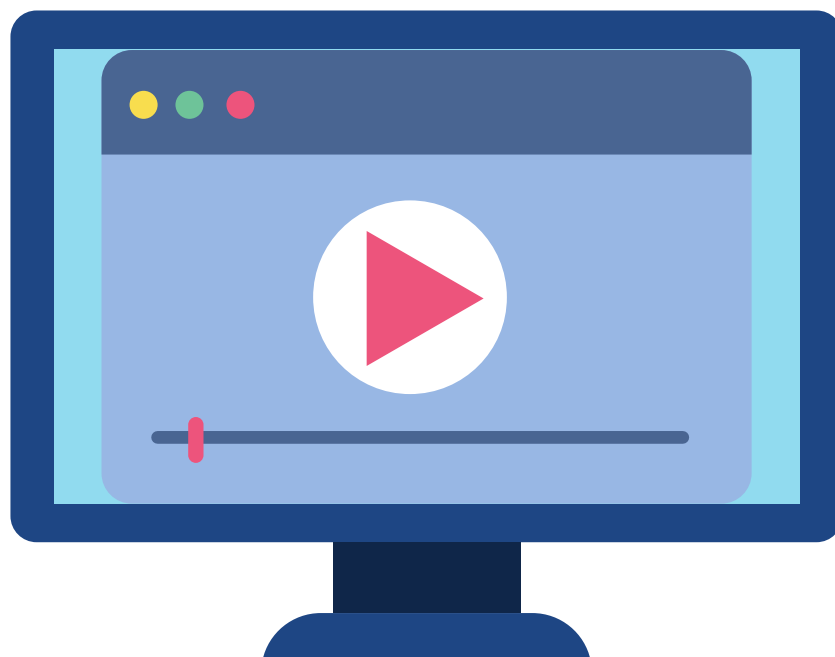
Also starting on March 16th, I will conduct a matching Q&A sessions, to elaborate any questions you may have regarding the learning bite.

The sessions take place every Wednesday from 2-2.30pm.
Please join me via Webex: https://hsrw.webex.com/meet/naomi.mclaughlan.
Registration for the session is not required.

If you like to suggest a specific topic to be covered, please do not hesitate to contact me.

https://elearning.hochschule-rhein-waal.de/technologyandbionics

»Wir stärken Mädchen« - Podcast Project

In a team effort with Dr Maryam Bolouri, I currently support the »Wir stärken Mädchen« - Podcast Project of the Gesamtschule am Forstgarten, in Kleve.

Mrs Bothorn, the social education worker of the secondary school, started the project in line with the nation-wide initiative, which focuses on encouraging female students to investigate typically male dominated careers.

After Mrs Bothorn reached out to Dr Boulori earlier this year, we initially offered a two-part training on podcast production to a group of year 9 students, including the introduction of essential technology and tools, as well as sharing insights on best practices.

We are now in the process of editing the first episode of the podcast series, together with the group of students and their social education worker, utilizing the Technology and Bionics audio lab.

The overall aim is to teach the group how to record, edit and share the podcast, as well as how to promote it.

Further information on the project can be found online; ge.kleve.de and https://wir-staerken-maedchen.de/.