

## LEARNING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OVERVIEW FORM

Project title	Developing learner independence through field-based GIS		Project ID No	CLAD – HIST026
Strategy area/theme	Geography, earth and environmental sciences (GEES)			
Start date	January 2008	Completion date	November 2009	
Project type	Learner independence project			
Level	All	Programme of study		
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– To build a generic WebCT course on the use of GIS</li> <li>– To train module leaders in the use of this technology</li> <li>– To assist staff in producing module-specific GIS materials</li> <li>–</li> </ul>			
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To build a generic WebCT course on the use of mobile GIS containing data-specific case studies which can be used by the different disciplines within the School. The module would contain the following core elements:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Sources of base maps;</li> <li>b) Synchronising between desktop ArcGIS and mobile ArcPad;</li> <li>c) Adding data to maps in the field</li> <li>d) Using GPS in ArcPad to record field positions</li> <li>e) Exporting field data for analysis in ArcGIS</li> <li>f) Analysis of field data in the classroom.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. To use the generic course to train module leaders in the use of this technology such that they can investigate ways it might be applied to existing courses.</li> <li>3. To assist module leaders in customising the generic course into something specific to their teaching.</li> <li>4. To examine the scope within existing curricula in GEES to create a specialised level 3 module in the use of survey-grade equipment.</li> </ol>			
Overview	<p>This project sought to facilitate the process of students enhancing their skills in the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and using these to develop practices of independent learning. The focus was on producing resources for staff to help embed GIS within the curriculum within GEES. Primary among these resources was a generic skills training course made available via WebCT. This self-guided course operates at a number of levels, from complete novice to more advanced user seeking to augment their existing skill set. Undergraduates, doctoral researchers and staff alike are able to use these materials and apply these techniques to their own research/teaching interests. This material is not only used within GEES, offers the potential to make these techniques accessible across the College of Life and Environmental Sciences, as well as the wider university.</p> <p>Material relating to specific modules has been designed, fitting into a significant overhaul of the curricula within GEES over the past three years, with a much greater use of GIS. Not only have GIS skills been embedded into a variety of modules across GEES, an entirely new 10 credit Geography Module 'Mapping the Midlands' (due to start running October 2010) has been set up as a direct result of this project, utilising the resources produced by the postdoc.</p>			

Further Information	For further information on this project please contact CLAD at University of Birmingham <a href="mailto:cladprojects@contacts.bham.ac.uk">cladprojects@contacts.bham.ac.uk</a> quoting CLAD projects HIST026
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