Online teaching and video production

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Online teaching and training

- Everybody’s doing it!
- Online leaning platforms
  - Learning Management Systems
- Real-time (Zoom, etc.)
- Pre-recorded videos
  - For university teaching
  - For training courses
  - For research communication
Early adopter!
Before that, a MOOC ...
I’ve made around 350 videos for teaching, training, user support, and research dissemination. Apart from my MOOC, I did all the video recording, audio, design, editing, etc. A wide range of complexity and sophistication:
- Quick and simple
- Going for a professional look

What have I learned that might be helpful to others?
Pro’s and cons of videos for lectures

● Pro’s
  o Flexibility for students
  o Avoids death by Zoom
  o Better quality than lecture capture
  o Can be made to look polished and professional
  o Can be re-used
  o Sabbaticals are easier for your colleagues
  o You’re prepared when a pandemic hits

● Cons
  o Takes time to skill up
  o Takes more time to prepare than a normal lecture
  o May need to purchase software and/or equipment
Personal contact still helps

- Discussion boards
- Email announcements
- Tutorials
- Workshops
- Field trips
Range of quality/sophistication levels

- Get something basic together quickly and easily
  - Just record yourself in Zoom or similar
  - Minimal learning
  - Not much more time than just giving the lecture normally
Using a video editor platform

**Higher-end option**
- Record a video of you giving the lecture and combine it with the slides, animations and music
- More professional look
- More time consuming
Steps

1. Prepare
2. Record
3. Process
4. Upload
Prepare – make it engaging

- Key issue is engaging students
  - even more important on video than in person
- Follow usual good practice for PPTs
- Allow space on slides for your video
- Break it up
  - 6-8 minutes per part
  - Finish with key points and revision questions in each segment
  - Creates multiple starts – renews attention
Making it engaging

● Mix it up
  o Lectures
  o Demonstrations
  o Interviews

● Make it a bit personal
  o Give your background
  o Tell stories
  o Give real examples you have been involved in.
Camera
Buy a microphone
My setups
My setups
Green screen
Software – a bewildering range

Video editing software: The 17 best tools for 2020

By Creative Bloq Staff  6 days ago

The best video editing software available today, both paid and free.

Screencast Software / software

Camtasia Proprietary ...
Screencastomatic Freeware
CamStudio GNU Gener...
SimpleScreenu GNU Gener...
ScreenFlow Proprietary ...
Jing Freeware
Adobe Captivate Proprietary ...
Fraps Proprietary ...
Other useful free software

Paint.net

Audacity
Location

- **Light is critical**
  - Avoid bright sunlight
  - Needs to come from front
  - Or from multiple lights above
  - Not from one side
  - NOT FROM BEHIND

- **Think about the background**

- **Carpets, curtains, soft furnishings** help avoid hollow/empty sound
Delivery

- Camera at eye height
- Look at the camera
  - Or look at the slides, near the camera
  - Standing a bit further from camera helps
- If you make a mistake, stop, wait about 10 seconds and have another go
- Exude energy and be positive
- Humour helps if you can manage it
- Don’t just read – elaborate and clarify
Process

- Upload video and/or audio onto laptop
- Read them into video editor, with screen capture
- Align video and audio (if recorded separately)
- Maximise volume of voice without distortion
- Maybe apply audio compression (audio levelling)
- Insert introduction (opening slide/music)
- Edit out glitches
- Insert animations, annotations and transitions
- Watch the whole thing through
Resources

- A checklist for making your videos look professional
  https://grumo.com/how-to-make-your-online-lectures-look-great/

- A set of tips for using PowerPoint well
  http://www.pannelldiscussions.net (number 147)

- Music that is free to download and use
  https://www.bensound.com/
Examples of my videos