Electronic management of assessment (EMA) project background

» Recently completed – a 3 year programme of work
» Involved 30 institutions, 2200 staff, 6000 students
» Main themes:
  › Feedback and feed forward
  › Enhancing student employability
  › Strategies for change
  › Electronic management of assessment (EMA)

Academic context

» Traditional culture stubbornly resistant to change
» Devolved responsibility & varied practice
» Limited opportunity for students to engage with process of making academic judgements
» Issues with degree structure
System integration

» Limited range of core technologies

» Integration loose & requiring manual intervention

» More HEIs say their A&F systems are ‘completely separate’ than ‘highly integrated’
Business processes

» Lots of local variation
» Only 12% of HEIs have ‘highly standardised’ processes
» Different interpretations of policy
» Variation hidden till EMA tried
The assessment & feedback lifecycle

1. Specifying
2. Setting
3. Supporting
4. Submitting
5. Marking and production of feedback
6. Recording grades
7. Returning marks and feedback
8. Reflecting
Pain points

- Systems integration generally
- Staff resistance
- VLE/SRS integration
- Inflexibility of systems
- Double/Second marking
- Variability of our business processes
- Anonymity
- Moderation
- Handling a variety of assessment
- External examining
- Recording marks
- Returning feedback to students
- Recording feedback
- Returning marks to students
- Accessibility/inclusivity issues
- Student resistance

Legend:
- Very problematic
- Slightly problematic
- Not a problem
- Don't know
Top 10 EMA Challenges

1. Ability to handle variety of typical UK marking and moderation workflows
2. Reliability of submission systems
3. Lack of interoperability between marking systems and student records systems
4. Need to develop more effective student assessment literacies
5. Marking and production of feedback
6. Risk aversion
7. Ability to manage marks and feedback separately
8. Academic resistance to online marking
9. Need for greater creativity
10. Ability to gain longitudinal overview of student achievement

The assessment lifecycle:
- Specifying
- Setting
- Supporting
- Submitting
- Reflecting
- Returning marks and feedback
- Recording grades
Top 20 EMA Challenges

1. Ability to handle variety of typical UK marking and moderation workflows
2. Reliability of submission systems
3. Need to offer greater formative opportunities
4. Need to develop more effective student assessment literacies
5. Marking and production of feedback
6. Risk aversion
7. Ability to manage marks and feedback separately
8. Academic resistance to online marking
9. Need for greater creativity
10. Ability to gain longitudinal overview of student achievement
11. Notifying students when feedback is ready
12. Ability of systems to handle off-line marking
13. Systems not geared to peer assessment
14. Lack of interoperability between marking systems and student records systems
15. Differences of opinion on value of anonymous marking
16. Ability of systems to support variety of grading schemes
17. Ability to handle variety of anonymity requirements
18. Ability of systems to support variety of moderation process
19. Systems not geared to group submissions
20. Ability of systems to deal with mathematical, scientific, musical etc notation
Where are we now?

» Review of the **EMA landscape** across UK HE and FE completed.

» **Identified and prioritised the challenges** around EMA

» Workshops in Dec 2014 and Jan 2015 **explored possible solutions** to these prioritised challenges

Where next?

Landscape review – challenges prioritised

EMA workflows project – mapping requirements

Ongoing capture of resources – ‘EMA toolkit’ incorporating integrations

Feedback hub scoping

Pilots
EMA requirements map

» Project to identify, validate and specify key EMA requirements and workflows, through generic models.

» Providing clarity and transparency on workflows. Helps systems suppliers better support good pedagogic practice and helps institutions review their own practice.

» Develop a visual way of presenting workflows; map current systems to workflows; and engage with suppliers and developers to fill gaps.
EMA toolkit

» **Web-based toolkit** of resources: based on the **assessment and feedback lifecycle**.

» **Examples of solutions**, that can be **repurposed for local contexts**.

» Addresses the question of **‘what does good assessment design look like?’** and enhances assessment literacies of staff and students.

» **Navigation routes** through the toolkit e.g. by identified workflow and stakeholder groups.
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» Join the conversation on the blog: ema.jiscinvolve.org/ and on twitter #jiscassess

» Guides, case studies, videos and other resources on assessment and feedback: bit.ly/jisc-assess