“…If we want students to develop critical thinking, judgement and autonomy in assignment production they should be provided with high-level evaluative experiences similar to those of experts. Peer review, students evaluating and commenting on each other’s work, is one way to achieve this”.

What is the PEER project?
- PEER stands for Peer Evaluation in Education Review
- the PEER project is funded by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) under its innovation grants scheme [July 1st 2010 to June 30th 2011]
- the project is led by the University of Strathclyde
- the PEER project will identify educational designs for peer review and software tools to support peer review implementation
- it will also pilot and evaluate some peer review implementations

Why is the PEER project important?
- the PEER project builds on the REAP project and has two core premises
- that learning will be significantly enhanced when students engage in regular activities where they make judgements about the work of peers
- that making judgements and giving feedback is cognitively more productive for learning than just receiving feedback
- the PEER project will explore ways of harnessing technology to make peer review easy and cost-effective to implement

Objectives of the PEER project
- Review the literature and identify the educational features of effective peer review.
- Map available software systems that support peer review to the educational features.
- Pilot and evaluate peer review using software in academic departments at the University of Strathclyde
- Produce guidelines for effective implementation of peer review using software with large student numbers.
- Provide evidence-based information for others wishing to implement peer review.

Project Methodology
The PEER project has three phases.
- Development of a framework and the identification of a set of educational designs for peer review as well as a mapping and evaluation of existing software systems that support peer review.
- Conduct some pilot implementations of peer review in at least two different disciplinary areas and evaluate the benefits.
- Production of outputs, in particular, guidelines on how to implement peer review using software and a literature review. Other outputs will be produced and disseminated through the website, events and project reports.
Anticipated outputs and outcomes of the PEER project

Outputs
- A website documenting project progress
- Educational designs for peer review
- Analysis of technologies available for peer review
- Guidelines on how to implement peer review
- Evaluation of pilot implementations including description of lessons learned
- Papers in peer reviewed journals and reports.

Outcomes
- Raise awareness and improve understanding of the educational benefits of peer review in further and higher education
- Provide a framework for current and future implementations of technology-supported peer review
- Provide an overview of the state-of-play of software tools for peer review
- Scope future work required

Project Team

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