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I hope you had the chance to have a break over the summer and enjoyed a bit of down time.

Developments in the learning technology world never seem to stop coming. Just as we are supposed to be getting our heads round HTML5 vs Flash, so we now need to consider how social media fits in our offerings (I wonder how we'll measure what happens in the "social" environment), and then along comes the Pokemon Go phenomenon, which raises the prospect of gaming & augmented reality and the potential they might offer the organisation. And don't forget to keep an eye on blockchain and virtual reality, but maybe we can leave these for "some time in the future".

All these tools and technologies are great, but are they helping us deliver cost effective solutions, within the constraints we're facing?

Bearing this question in mind, and to try to keep some perspective, over the next few newsletters we'll be bringing you some insight into what others have found from using technology tools to deliver training and learning opportunities.

This month we have a paper from Queens University, Belfast who carried out research to determine what their students thought of the elearning included into their studies - be warned, it doesn't make for good reading, but let's see what lessons we can take and use them to improve what we're offering - read more at the [eLA website - Lost In a Sea of eLearning](#).

 **eLA Annual Survey**

The initial responses to our survey show a variety of tools being used across the community for developing elearning and for managing content and learners. The responses show that as a community, we're currently wrestling with (or are expecting to be) gamification, HTML5, MOOCs and assessments.

To get as broad a view as possible, we're looking to collect more data, so if you've not done so already, please [drop by](#).

❖ New Opportunities:

We've had a springclean on our websites, and one of the changes we've implemented is moving the jobs vacancies section to Twitter. So, if you're looking for a new opportunity, follow https://twitter.com/eLA_JobsBoard . To whet your appetite, what about Head of Learning Technologies @ Aviva.

❖ Upcoming Events:

If you have some time to attend elearning events, then there's a number taking place in the next couple of months you might like to consider:

1st September - eCom Scotland - Breakfast Briefing - Glasgow

6th - 8th September - ALT Annual Conference - Warwick

9th September - eLearning Network - Glasgow

21st & 22nd September - Scottish Learning Festival - Glasgow

19th & 20th October - World of Learning - Birmingham

In addition to the above events, we have our own Networking Meeting in December. We're finalising details for this Meeting, and will issue information soon.

We look to keep the [website](#) up to date with current meetings, workshops, conferences and webinars, so drop by if you're looking for something interesting.

❖ Recently Published:

As always, a quick browse of the internet show's there's an almost never ending supply of articles about developing and using elearning available.

We've listed a few which we found interesting - we hope you do to:

[People Who Show Their Work on Snapchat](#) - In the introduction, I mention getting to grips with using social media in our learning, but one of the issues with social media, is the number of tools available. In this article Helen Blunden explains some of her experiences from using Snapchat.

[What is an API?](#) - Working with technology, you have no doubt come across

the term API - but what is it, and is it relevant to us delivering learning opportunities. This piece from Growth Engineering gives us some background.

[The 9 Most Common Myths About eLearning Authoring Tools](#) - Despite their growing popularity, there are still many myths about eLearning authoring tools. This article from Yann Teyssier will help to debunk some of those myths.

Let us know if there's a great article you think others would benefit from reading, and we'll help you spread the word.

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