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**••• The eLearning Toolkit - What Comes Next :**

In our last bulletin we looked at the findings from Queens University Belfast that suggested some of their learners were getting [lost in the sea of elearning](#) due to the volume of materials being "dumped" on them. At the Alliance we see this as only one side of the issue, as we feel eLearning practitioners are also under pressure from the weight of technology options which are now marketed to us and the pressure of expectation of what they are capable of.

When it comes to eLearning, we have many options - some cost us money up front, some on an on-going basis, whilst others claim to be free.

We can run our eLearning in-house or put it in the cloud; build it ourselves or contract it out.

Big budget, or small, if we want to develop our staff, then we can - with as much or as little technology as we see fit.

Our big question then is, how do we use the technology resources available to structure programmes suitable for our learners and for our organisation.

With this in mind, we're using our next [Discussion and Networking Meeting in Edinburgh](#) to ponder some of the issues that having access to all these technology resources pose us as eLearning practitioners and wonder how our eLearning toolbox came to be so cluttered.

The discussion will go where our participants lead it, but possible topics include:

- Tools - free or paid
- Sourcing content - where does OER fit
- Developing or curating content
- Calculating added value

Places are limited, so be quick if you want to join us on 9th December.

 **Case Studies:**

A couple of case studies have been published in the last few months which we hope you will find useful when it comes to thinking about the possibilities of what eLearning can deliver for you and your organisation.

**The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)** offer training and consultation to businesses and professionals working in social care, health, education and employment, helping them support people who are blind or partially sighted. They needed to make their training more flexible and meet the high demand for employee development from their clients. They also wanted to diversify their training offering by incorporating new learning technology while following accessibility best practice.

They partnered with eCom Scotland to define an effective learning strategy and built a bespoke learning management system as well as a series of accessible eLearning courses.

You can read the full [case study here](#).

**A.G. Barr** is a FTSE250 Company who's been manufacturing and distributing soft drinks since 1875. Currently employing 900+ employees across the UK, A.G. Barr have used Totara since 2012, but they needed to revisit the structure of content to future-proof the system for the delivery of planned projects, while meeting new tracking and reporting requirements. Working with MediaCorp Online, they examined course and learning content which led to a re-mapping and re-structuring exercise as well as fresh dashboard designs.

You can read further details of the [project here](#).

*Further case studies are available in the [resources section of the eLA website](#).*

❖ **Blue Eskimo Salary Survey:**

Blue Eskimo has launched its ninth annual work and salary survey which provides an insight into work and pay within the UK's learning sector.

The survey is open until mid-December and takes less than five minutes to complete. The results will be available early in 2017. Those who complete the survey have the chance to win £300 of high-street vouchers.

Complete the [survey here](#).

❖ **Recently Published Articles:**

A quick browse of the internet reveals an almost never ending supply of articles about developing and using elearning. We've listed a few which we found interesting - we hope you do to:

**Learning Technology Research Project 2016**

Agylia and the University of the West of England (UWE) have launched a community research project into the use of mobile learning - *Learning Technology Research Project 2016*.

Participants will undergo a two-week training programme on the subject of modern learning technologies, including social learning, gamification, and augmented & virtual reality. This will be delivered as a mix of short mobile learning modules, plus quizzes and surveys, direct to phones or tablets.

All participants will receive a certificate and a free copy of the summary research report.

Sign up for the project at [www.ltrproject.com](http://www.ltrproject.com).

**Blockcerts — An Open Infrastructure for Academic Credentials on the Blockchain**

MIT Media Lab have announced the launch of BlockCerts.

Blockcerts provides a decentralized credentialing system, based on blockchain technologies. The Bitcoin blockchain acts as the provider of trust, with credentials being tamper-resistant and verifiable. It's seen that with Blockcerts, blockchain could be used in the context of academic, professional, and workforce credentialing.

This is probably the first of many blockchain academic credentialing systems, so we'll keep an eye on things and see how they develop.

Read more @ [MIT Media Lab](#).

#### **OER17 Call for Proposals**

ALT have announced that the *#OER17: The Politics of Open* call for proposals has now been published.

The 8th Open Educational Resources Conference, will be held from 5 to 6 April 2017 at Resource for London, UK.

The deadline for proposals is midday Wednesday, 16 November 2016. Get more details about [OER17 from ALT](#).

The funding of the Alliance project comes from sponsorship, subscriptions, donations and events. Visit [www.elearningalliance.com](http://www.elearningalliance.com) for more details.

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