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Stimulating student learning when visual is King: Learnmore at City University

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At City



What are we facing?

LALALALALA...
I'm not interested
in any of this library
stuff!



Better and targeted research



THE BRAIN

- ▶ Search engine holding all the answers?
- ▶ Surface learning
- ▶ Internet stealing away our capacity to concentrate
- ▶ Spence (2004) *'we're on the web all the time. We can find the information we need'*



The big challenge: engaging students



- ▶ Independent learners
- ▶ Legal skills are fundamental to making great lawyers
- ▶ Inform how they adapt to substantive law teaching
- ▶ Lifelong and deep learning



Existing problems for engagement

- ▶ Skills gap A-levels to degree
 - ▶ Lecture/tutorial model
- ▶ Managing student expectation
 - ▶ Subject can be dull!

MIND THE GAP



So what did our resource have to be/do?

- 
- ▶ **Resource-based**
 - ▶ **Focused around the students**
 - ▶ **Available 24/7**
 - ▶ **Promote independence and academic confidence**
 - ▶ **Embedding real-life – learning through practice**
 - ▶ **Lots of multimedia**

Visual = King

- ▶ Connected world in which our students reside
- ▶ Has to look good or no-one will care about the content



What do the students think about Learnmore as a learning resource?

'It helps to have lots of different types of resources to learn from, not being reliant on always learning by reading!'

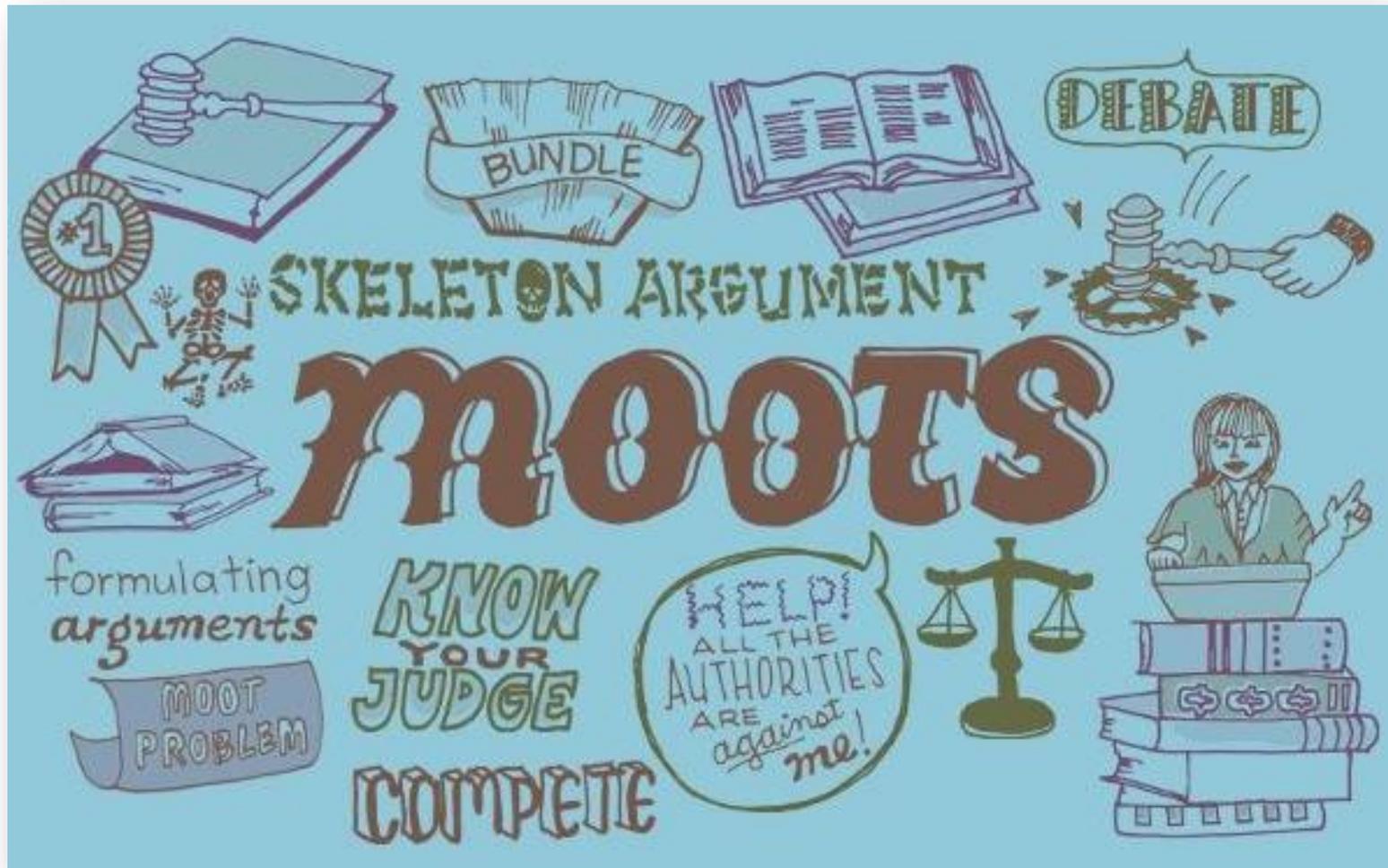
'Different resources – online tutorials, slideshows and videos – present the information in a fun and stimulating way...'

'It gets intense going through textbooks as reading can become a chore – nice to have something to lighten it'

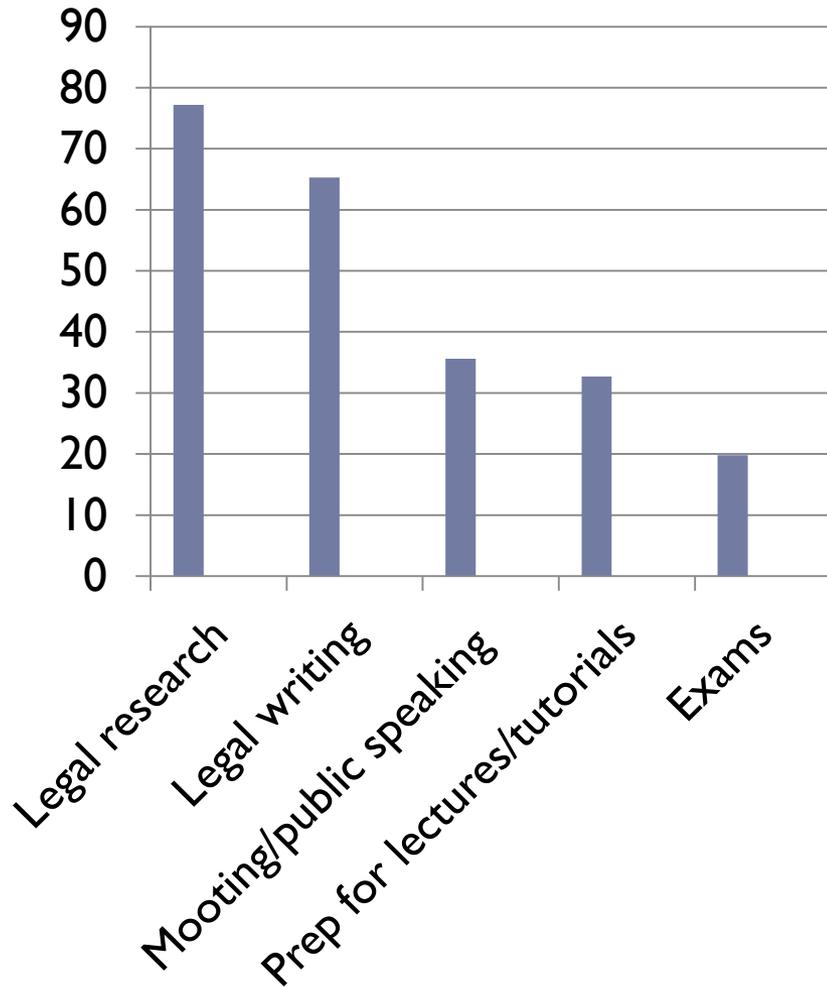
'Suits different people and how they study'



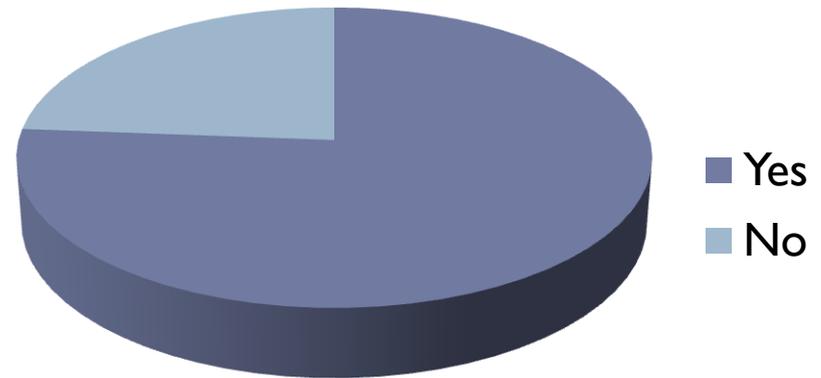
Let's take a look...



What do the students think are the most important legal skills?



Do multimedia resources enhance your learning experience?



Why does multimedia help?

- ▶ *I'm that type of learner/everyone learns by different methods – closes the learning gap*
- ▶ *More interesting medium*
- ▶ *Get the chance to watch it again*
- ▶ *More fun to work so I concentrate more/get us students working with a greater passion*
- ▶ *Makes it stick more in my mind/ideal for people who are more 'hands-on'*
- ▶ *Able to visually see things*
- ▶ *Variety of resources is refreshing, not dull and boring like a book*
- ▶ *Breaks up lectures/visuals can be beneficial from the daily monotonous lecturers talking*



What methods did we chose...



Keeping up to date with Law

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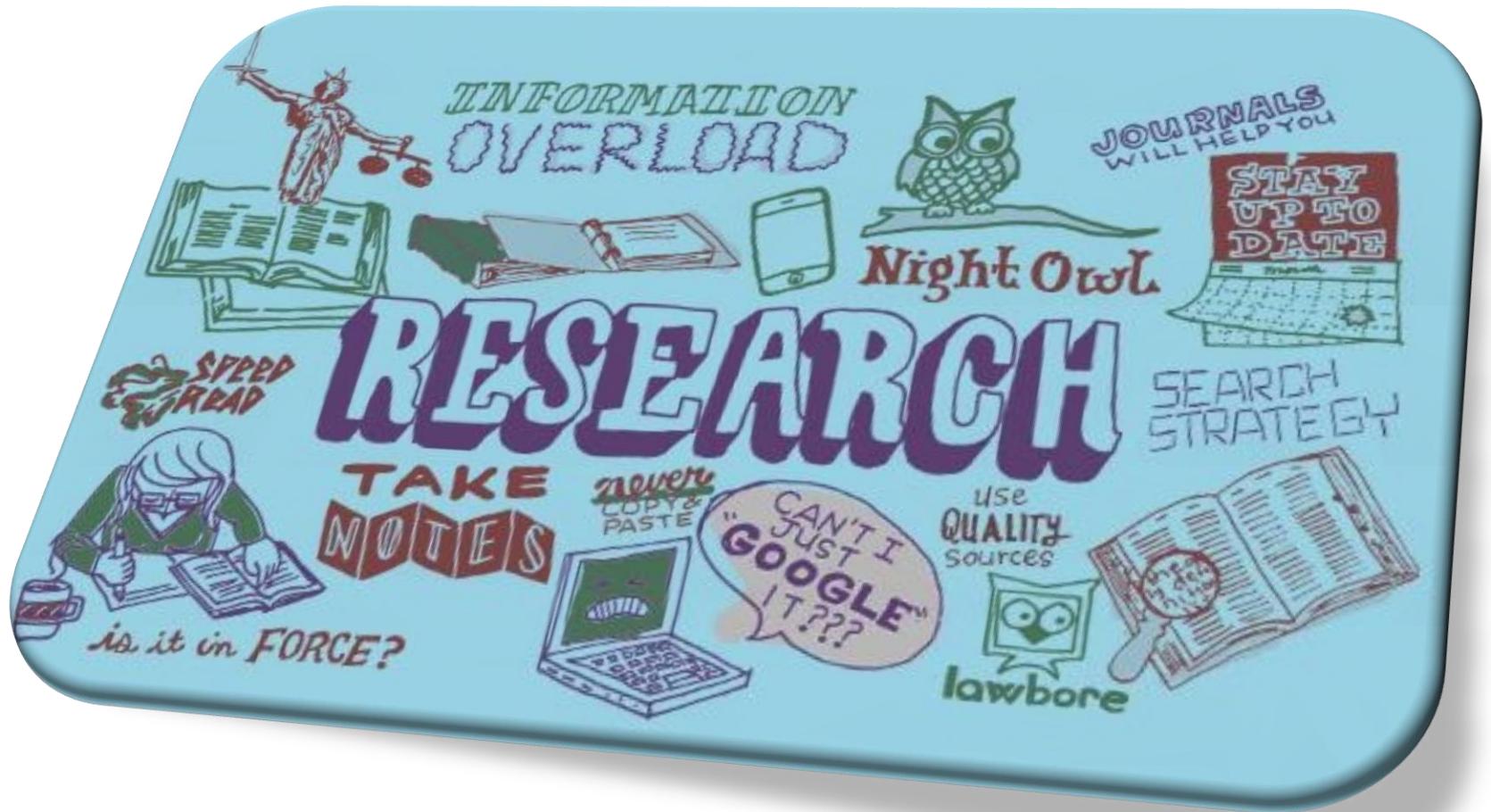


Outline	Thumb	Notes	Search
Slide Title			Duration
Keeping up to date wi...			00:02
▶ Change is the only co...			00:28
Websites			00:12
Guardian Law			00:25
To tweet or not to twe...			01:23
Here's a taster of typ...			00:19
What does a twitter s...			00:41
Blogs			01:27
Specific blogs			00:31
More on blogs			00:15
RSS			00:44

7 Minutes 52 Seconds Remaining

   Slide 2 / 18 | Playing 00:03 / 00:28   

Research on Learnmore



Peer learning

- ▶ 71% of LLB students surveyed - value mix of advice from lecturers and other students



Law profs....yawn...

- ▶ “Law professors’ personal stories about ‘*how I learned it*’ –somewhat meaningless and antiquated..Novice peers, are perfect mirrors to help each other reflect and regulate law student learning” (Herndon, 2010)

And then in
1974...



=



“Felt inspired by reading about what others in our position have achieved”

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GET SOME EXPERIENCE

GET SOME EXPERIENCE!

After (surprisingly!) good performances in our end of first year exams, we were fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to join a dozen other students and undertake a one-week placement at **Allen & Overy LLP**, one of the largest and most well-respected law firms in the world.

It was a daunting feeling walking into the Allen & Overy world and to be a small fish in such a large sea: getting lost in the corporate maze that is the **A&O Bishops Square Office** seemed inevitable. However – and we both reiterated this – everyone went out of their way to make us comfortable. Part of that is the imbedded ‘friendliness’: everyone was happy to talk to us about their job. The firm isn’t hierarchically-minded which means we weren’t at any point patronised and the ‘open door’ policy has made us all feel very comfortable and at ease. On our part - given that we were essentially on the bottom rung of the ladder - we made a real effort to interact and network, which really made us feel like a cog in the wheel while we were there.

We were both somewhat concerned we’d spend the time doing activities like photocopying, making coffee etc; those tasks perhaps incorporated into the urban myth of such experiences. It was refreshing to get our teeth into some of the ‘meatier’ work that A&O does: big clients, big deals, big money. We were assigned trainers who delegated work to us and, where necessary, explained it through, meaning we have a much fuller understanding of what a firm like A&O does on a day-to-day basis.

‘Sponge’ was our keyword: we were happy to soak up any advice, information or suggestions we received. So we tried our best to sharpen up several important skills. We took part in a presentation game, where we were instructed to present to a group of other students, members from the Graduate Recruitment Team and one partner about particular A&O Departments. It required both real diligence in investigating what the firm did and how it did it, as well as stylishly presenting your findings. This was all the more tricky given tight time restrictions: in that sense the Mooting we had done in LLB1 proved invaluable. Furthermore, a negotiation game was a new and eye-opening experience (and even quite heated at times!), but some of those skills we’ve managed to incorporate into our daily lives.

Do we look like we belong here? Course we do!

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http://learnmore.lawbore.net/index.php/Get_Some_Experience...

Internet

Questions?



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Credits

- ▶ Slide 1: *'Eyes are the mirror of the soul'* by rAmmoRRison
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/rammorrison/4704353204/>
 - ▶ Slide 3: *'Lalala...I don't wanna hear this!'* By hebedesign
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 - ▶ Slide 4: *'The brain typography'* by labguest
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Credits

- ▶ Slide 8: *'king club'* by oknovokght
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- ▶ Slide 15: from Big Walk on Water website
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- ▶ Slide 16: *'Professor Finger Puppet'* by abbey*christine
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and *'The famous yawn - cc licence'* by Hilary Quinn
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