

The Legal Education Group is a discussion group, organised by the Centre for Legal Education but open to everyone (including, if your line manager says yes, subject administrators). It positively benefits from bringing together people from across the school. The autumn meeting focussed on academic posters, both for staff and as an activity for students and was led by Louise Taylor.

## Posters as conference participation

Louise shared her thoughts and experiences of creating academic posters. The first point is that an academic poster is NOT "a journal article printed on A1 paper and stuck on a wall!". Some of us had, however, seen QR codes on posters used as a means of linking through to other material.

Posters have developed from their scientific roots to become an expected part of conferences. They can be used to evidence research activity at an intermediary stage and allow for conference attendance without the pressure of presenting.

There are challenges in presenting concisely and visually. Ideally the poster would contain fewer than 500 words, but it will include images or graphs. It would normally include introduction/methodology/findings and results/conclusions and (possibly in small print) references and acknowledgements. Conferences may well have very specific requirements for posters and these should be checked in advance. Time spent on thinking about content and layout is well worth it. Powerpoint is, however, a very useful tool to use to create posters. A test A3 version is advisable so that you can check for mistakes before going to the length of professional printing by the Printshop (£10 for an A1 colour poster plus additional time and cost if you need to have it laminated)

## Posters with students and posters by students

If the 30,000 word dissertation can become an 8,000 word journal article, with equal rigour in the underlying research, but more focus because of the smaller compass, then can a 6,000 word student essay legitimately become an academic poster?

Another use of an academic poster is to take it to a teaching session as an immediate and focused resource to spark debate. D Legal Practice students created posters during a workshop as a means of developing focus and sharing their ideas with peers.

Several members of the group were actively considering using posters as a summative assessment. The "viva" component could be contributed by holding an exhibition and asking students to stand by their poster and answer questions. Louise, Pamela and Jo are sharing ideas about appropriate assessment criteria for "poster exams" and would welcome thoughts and contributions.

## Where are the posters?

We have a small but growing collection of posters, both by staff and by research students. We have also used small posters (ie powerpoint slides) to allow D Legal Practice students to participate from a distance in the NLS research conference.

We thought it would be useful to find some way of having posters stored and displayed. One possible short term means of display would be through the screen at reception. Ideas are sought so we can put a proposal to LSE. Meanwhile, if you wish to add to (or borrow) the collection, it is in Pamela Henderson's custody.

## Resources:

NTU verbal communication guides (C1, C2 and C4) at:

[https://now.ntu.ac.uk/d2l/cas/tools/resources/studyskillsguides/main\\_fr.asp?section=1#verbalcommunication](https://now.ntu.ac.uk/d2l/cas/tools/resources/studyskillsguides/main_fr.asp?section=1#verbalcommunication)

The University of Leicester have a very useful short tutorial with hints and tips on creating academic posters. This can be accessed at: <http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/ld/resources/presentation/designing-poster/designing-poster>; and an online tutorial that can be used to generate a poster <https://connect.le.ac.uk/posters>

Akister J, Bannon A and Mullender-Lock H, 'Poster Presentations in Social Work Education Assessment: A Case Study' (2000) 37 *Innovations in Education & Training International* 229 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13558000050138461>> accessed 28 October 2014

Center for Innovation in Research and Teaching, 'Effective Poster Presentations' <<https://cirt.gcu.edu/research/developmentresources/tutorials/posterpresent>>

Chandler R and others, 'Experiencing Audio Recorded Research (EARR): Giving Voice to Qualitative Poster Presentations' (2013) 18 *The Qualitative Report* 1 <<http://www.nova.edu/ssss/QR/QR18/chandler3.pdf>>

Farrow P and others, 'Delegate Interactions with Congress Posters: Current Preferences and Future Opportunities' (2014) <[http://www.ismpp.org/assets/docs/Education/AnnualMeeting/10thAM/Abstract\\_Posters/3\\_farrow\\_10am\\_poster\\_final.pdf](http://www.ismpp.org/assets/docs/Education/AnnualMeeting/10thAM/Abstract_Posters/3_farrow_10am_poster_final.pdf)>

Kinikin J and Hench K, 'Poster Presentations as an Assessment Tool in a Third/college-Level Information Literacy Course: An Effective Method of Measuring Student Understanding of Library Research Skills' (2012) 6 *Journal of Information Literacy* 86 <<https://ojs.lboro.ac.uk/ojs/index.php/JIL/article/view/LLC-V6-I2-2012-2>> accessed 28 October 2014

Menke JL, 'Implementation of Online Poster Sessions in Online and Face-to-Face Classrooms as a Unique Assessment Tool' (2014) 91 *Journal of Chemical Education* 414 <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1021/ed400665n>> accessed 28 October 2014

Purrington C, 'Designing Conference Posters' <<http://colinpurrington.com/tips/academic/posterdesign>> accessed 28 October 2014

Rowe N and Ilic D, 'What Impact Do Posters Have on Academic Knowledge Transfer? A Pilot Survey on Author Attitudes and Experiences' (2009) 9 *BMC Medical Education* 71 <<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6920/9/71/abstract>> accessed 28 October 2014

## Dates for your diary:

- NLS Legal Education Group, *Ethics and Identity*, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015, 1-2pm, CHR 4804.
- ALT special conference, *50 years of assessment in legal education*, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015, London. Call for papers deadline 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014: [altjanconference15@gmail.com](mailto:altjanconference15@gmail.com)
- ALT Conference, *50 Years of Legal Education*, 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, Cardiff. Call for papers/posters deadline 4<sup>th</sup> December: [altconference15@gmail.com](mailto:altconference15@gmail.com)
- Global Legal Skills 10, 20-22 May 2015, Chicago. [http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/international\\_law/2014/09/gls-10.html](http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/international_law/2014/09/gls-10.html)
- Institute for Law Teaching and Learning, *Experiential Learning Across the Curriculum*, 12-14<sup>th</sup> June 2015, Spokane, Washington. Call for workshop proposals deadline 1 February 2015. <http://lawteaching.org/conferences/2015/>
- NLS Centre for Legal Education, *Legal Education and Access to Justice*, 19-21<sup>st</sup> June 2015, Nottingham. Call for papers deadline 6<sup>th</sup> February 2015. [http://www.ntu.ac.uk/apps/events/3/home.aspx/event/165035/default/centre\\_for\\_legal\\_education\\_conference\\_2015](http://www.ntu.ac.uk/apps/events/3/home.aspx/event/165035/default/centre_for_legal_education_conference_2015)
- SLS Annual Conference, *Law's Subjects, Subject to Laws*, 1-4 September 2015, York. Call for papers deadline 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015. <http://www.slsconference.uk/>