

About the Design Studio

The Design Studio is not a repository of project outputs. Responsibility for making outputs open, accessible, re-usable where relevant, and suitable to the needs of audiences, as well as actually hosting resources, lies with the projects (though see guidance on this below).

The Design Studio:

- showcases outputs of high quality and interest, and/or of proven value to end-users
- organises outputs in ways that are of value to the sector, as identified through consultation
- collates programme level outputs and supports programme synthesis
- encourages identification of gaps and collaborative production of outputs to meet new needs
- provides ready-to-hand examples of what other projects are doing
- provides a window onto individual projects, encouraging further exploration
- allows projects to own how programme-level outputs are presented, through collaboratively-authored wiki pages
- supports different viewpoints on programme outputs
- builds a shared understanding of how different outputs and contextualising resources are used

Design Studio structure and responsibilities

The Design Studio is an editable wiki. Some of the wiki pages offer context and description, for example summarising key lessons on a particular theme, or pointing at particular examples of an output type. Projects will be invited to participate in developing these contextualising pages over time, but are not required to do so.

It is envisaged that the contextualising pages will offer a range of different viewpoints on programme outputs. Different projects, clusters, consultants, or other stakeholders, may write or rewrite parts of the wiki to document emerging themes or to meet the needs of their key stakeholders. At present, the privileged viewpoint on the DS is the 'curriculum lifecycle model', which was developed following the business process review workshop undertaken by Curriculum Design projects. This is only one of many possible interfaces and viewpoints, supported by a flat structure within which project outputs or 'assets' are described and tagged.

Some wiki pages simply describe the outputs that are hosted on project web sites (or third-party hosting sites). These 'asset' pages consist of a title, brief description, i-frame giving access to the asset itself, and tags. The tags are what give the wiki its dynamic and flexible character. For example, in writing a new wiki page on 'engaging employers', it will be possible dynamically to list all available assets that are tagged with 'employers' and/or 'stakeholder engagement'. Project outputs hosted on e.g. youtube, slideshare, can also be dynamically aggregated from within the DS.

Projects will be asked to ensure:

- that project outputs are of a type and quality to meet the needs of Design Studio users
- that project outputs are openly and freely available, accessible, and reusable where appropriate
- that project outputs are appropriately tagged to support aggregation and repurposing
- that they contribute their understanding of user needs to the development of the Design Studio (e.g. at prog meetings)
- that by the end of the project they have uploaded assets to the Design Studio which reference all of their key outputs

The support team will support projects, where required and requested, to

- identify how outputs can better meet the needs of stakeholders
- develop open, accessible and reusable outputs, and host them in a sustainable manner
- work collaboratively and effectively with other projects, to minimise duplication of effort
- contribute to synthesis and the 'big picture'
- tag or create metadata for outputs to support their discovery and reuse
- upload and tag assets

Project outputs: general guidance

The JISC requires that project outputs are made available by projects, free at the point of use, to the UK HE and FE community in perpetuity. It also requires projects to work in collaboration, at programme level, to maximise the dissemination and impact of outputs. Projects are additionally asked to consider how their outputs can be made maximally open, reusable, and accessible.

The Curriculum Design and Delivery Programmes do not mandate the use of one single platform to disseminate resources or one metadata application profile to describe them. However projects will need to ensure that resources produced and released through the programmes can be found, used, analysed, aggregated and tagged. In order to facilitate this, resources should be accompanied by some form of metadata. In this instance metadata doesn't necessarily mean de jure standards, application profiles, formal structured records, cataloguing rules, subject classifications, controlled vocabularies and web forms. Metadata can also take the form of tags added to resources in applications such as flickr and YouTube, time and date information automatically added by services such as slideshare, and author name, affiliation and other details added from user profiles when resources are uploaded.

The JISC suggests that the following "metadata" or tags be added to project resources, regardless of where they are hosted:

- Programme tag jiscdd
- Title
- Author / owner / contributor (from user profile)
- Date
- URL
- Technical info – file format, name & size

Further Guidance

See the Design Studio 'Sandbox' folder for further guidance including communicating outputs, accessibility and open content. NB all guidance will be further developed and made available within the Design Studio.

See also (printed):

Guidance for Projects: Output Types (Draft) - Guidance on different output types e.g. format, medium, usability – see

Guidance for Projects: Accessing the Design Studio

Guidance on tagging assets within the Design Studio