

THE RESOURCE ARCHIVE FOR TEACHER TRAINERS (RAFTT)

Gillian Brown

Subject Centre for Medicine, Dentistry & Veterinary Medicine, Newcastle
University, UK

Focus: A website to promote discussion and sharing of good practice in the training of teachers in healthcare, dental and veterinary education in the United Kingdom

Methods: A key strategy in promoting high quality learning and teaching in the fields of medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine is to provide effective professional development to teachers delivering programmes in those fields. In order to assist such staff, the Higher Education Academy Subject Centre for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine* is aiming to make available high quality resources for use by staff teaching the teachers on medical, dental and veterinary medicine programmes. With this in mind we have initiated the Resource Archive for Teacher Trainers (RAFTT) project.

The Resource Archive for Teacher Trainers (RAFTT) is a password-protected website that provides a means of the exchange of teacher training resources for their review and enhancement. It is also a forum for sharing good practice and discussing issues of interest to the community. A range of resources has already been deposited on the site and these are available to download and use in teacher training programmes. These resources are classified into the areas of activity defined by the UK Professional Standards Framework for teaching and supporting learning in higher education.

Results: Each resource is classified into one or more of the ‘areas of activity’ of the Higher Education Academy Professional Standards Framework:

1. Design and planning of learning activities and/or programmes of study
2. Teaching and/or supporting student learning
3. Assessment and giving feedback to learners
4. Developing effective environments and student support and guidance
5. Integration of scholarship, research and professional activities with teaching and supporting learning
6. Evaluation of practice and continuing professional development

Conclusions: The RAFTT website provides an online review and evaluation of the resources currently available and an opportunity to share and develop new resources. It identifies current key issues in staff development – e.g. making use of the Academy’s professional standards - and provides an opportunity to share and evaluate strategies to develop the teaching skills of health care educators. <http://www.medev.ac.uk/blogs/raftt>

* Higher Education Academy Subject Centres engage in a wide variety of activities to support practitioners, subject departments and discipline communities within the United Kingdom.

Gillian Brown, Education Advisor, Higher Education Academy Subject Centre for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine, University of Newcastle
Tel: +44 191 222 5888, Fax: +44 191 222 5016, Email: g.brown@ncl.ac.uk
Web: www.medev.ac.uk/