

Week 9 – The Podmag (10th February 2014)

The Podmag!!!

DAVE: OK Karen, shall we do it in here?

KAREN: Yes, why not. The Faculty Bar is a perfect place I don't know why we didn't think about this earlier.

DAVE: Well it's a bit crowded but we have found this little quiet corner, so go on, let's make a start.

KAREN: OK, right, I will go. Hi and Welcome to the Podmag, I'm Karen Foley.....

DAVE: and I'm Dave Middleton, shall I go to the bar and get us a drink?

KAREN: Oh yes, we could call this the pubmag

DAVE: The Pubmag, perfect, maybe we should just move in here every week.

KAREN: Oh I can't believe Eugenie got a warrant to clean the cupboard

DAVE: It didn't even look dirty to me

KAREN: No, I don't believe that and I can't believe Baron Hardup is still on the case about it all

DAVE: Or that she waved her mop at me like that

KAREN: I know

DAVE: Or where she threatened to put it, isn't that physically impossible

KAREN: Right, what's on the show this week?

DAVE: Right, we have got some really exciting stuff. We have got news from the **?????** Threshers Fair

KAREN: Oh good

DAVE: We have got the new website address

KAREN: Yes

DAVE: And I'm going to give a little bit of detail about the new website just very briefly

KAREN: Good, good, good

DAVE: And we could talk about the "Friday Thinker" that was great fun

KAREN: Yes, we should, definitely

DAVE: OK

KAREN: Is that **Non** there from the Library?

DAVE: I think it is. I will send her over and you can have a chat.

KAREN: Yes, brilliant

Interview with the library

KAREN: **Non**, Students can sometimes get a bit bored especially sort of mid-way through the module, when you have been reading your text books and things. What can they come to the library for to inspire them about something they might be studying.

N: Well we don't just have text based resources in the online collections, there are lots of rich materials in there, there are image databases in there, there are sound databases in there and there are broadcast resources, so there are lots of things to raid in the online library, not just simply articles or chapters of books.

KAREN: A lot of our students will be putting ideas together for the Student Connections Conference, so they might be interested in maybe having a looking back at some of this material and they might want to use some of that in their presentation. Is that something they could get in touch with the library about?

N: Well, I'm very much hoping that we librarians, the team they have here, are actually going to be part of the conference and offering little drop in sessions or possibly online tutorial sessions on how to do this very thing, how to use some of the jazzier materials if you like in a creative way.

KAREN: And can you also say a little bit about students sort of broadening their horizons because sometimes in the hum drum of everyday life, especially in TMAs, there are so many interesting things to find out about, but so little time as well and I know that is a pressure for a lot of our students. What would you say some of the benefits are about broadening experience in a way like this?

N: Well, I think these days, as we become more digital everything is becoming more and more digital and it is impacting on all of our daily lives now, so much more of us is having to write tax returns and vote on line and you can see that's the direction of travel. So being able to cope in complex environments and navigate your way through all of those digital resources and services confidently and the **manager** of information as well as you are going through that is going to be a key skill, a key digital information literacy skill going forward.

KAREN: All of this stuff sounds so interesting, I for one am just getting use to Twitter and things like that and how nice it must be to actually like feel you are adding to your knowledge whilst doing something trendy, enjoyable and now.

N: Absolutely and you can share some of things you are creating with others. So you can use forums that we provide or there is a whole raft of things we have the Facebook channel as well, you know there is a whole range of other channels that you can chose to share these things with. We also as

librarians we need to be where the students are as well or where they want us to be and where we can provide the most effective help.

KAREN: Thank you very much for joining me today.

DAVE: **Non's** gone as she?

KAREN: Yes, she has just left.

DAVE: Alright, here's your drink, I've got you a mineral water

KAREN: Oh, but you've got a pint

DAVE: Yes, well I didn't want you to get tipsy

KAREN: How come you have got a beer then?

DAVE: Well I've got a higher tolerance than you, right, so let's move on

KAREN: **Non** was telling me that she is going to do these courses on how to use Facebook and social media and stuff which I think will be brilliant because I thought I could use Facebook but she says there are loads more that you can do.

DAVE: Wow, do you think people know all about our Faculty Facebook page?

KAREN: I don't know if they do, but you can find it from the link on our new website and it's the Open University Social Sciences Facebook page, there are loads going on and lots of stuff on there about the Podmag. Shall we talk about the Friday Thinker we did the other week, a few weeks ago.

DAVE: Oh wasn't that fun.

KAREN: Oh I loved it, I really liked chatting to everyone, and you really get a sense that there is a community out there

DAVE: Well I really like some of the interactions between students rather than them talking to us, they were talking to each other and discussing some of the issues. **Kelly Kinaid** and **Michelle McNally**, really enthusiastic about Social Science, **Michelle McNally** says I love Social Science after studying ten years ago, its help me rationalise through hard times and made me an extremely strong person. Fantastic, what else would you

KAREN: I know, it's so funny because when I was doing the "Friday Thinker" and thinking about it, I was thinking gosh all of these things are such amazing things to talk about or blog about and some of these students have such fantastic writing styles you think this would sound so good on a blog or you know talking how Social Science has changed your life and how its changed the way you think about things. I bet other people would love to hear about that as well.

DAVE: I know some of the students here were quite interested, not all of them are going to sign up I don't think – **Tracey Sechal was one, Val Slade was another one, Esmi Attear was another one, all of them was quite interested in the whole idea of blogging, Lynn Didsbury mentions it as well. So a lot of interest in doing blogging.**

KAREN: Well it's not difficult, if you can do it, I'm sure everyone else can, it's just like a place on Facebook it's just having something to say.

DAVE: It's incredibly difficult, I've mastered it and I'm prepared to pass it on. Everything I have learned about writing about whatever that pops into my head. So we will be doing that, so you can find the "Friday Thinker" on facebook.com/theopenuniversity.socialsciences and you can also get there from our new website address.

KAREN: Great so what's next?

DAVE: Well I wanted to say something about OUSA which is the Open University Students Association. If you haven't found the OUSA yet, then you really ought to and if you are new student they have got a fantastic Threshers Fair and you know what? We are on there?

K; What

DAVE: The Podmag special

KAREN: Oh yes the Podmag Special

DAVE: The Threshers Special, so get onto www.open.ac.uk/OUSA and that will take you to the OUSA Threshers Fair and that is a great thing and I have a lot of time for the people from OUSA.

KAREN: Dave, that person over there waving, is that the Dean?

DAVE: Who I think it is, he isn't waving he is telling me to get back to work. Going now Sir, quick, drink your drinks. Great, what else have we got, Look there's Matt Staples

KAREN: Oh yeah

DAVE: I will drink this pint, you don't need another one and I will just pop up to the bar and I will see if Matt can come over and help us.

KAREN: OK

DAVE: Right Karen, I've just had a quick word with Matt I've left him with a microphone

KAREN: Right

DAVE: He's going to give us a bit of advice on DD101 for all those people who are starting in February.

KAREN: And if you are on the J presentation, that was the one in October, you might like to write in with some advice for these new students as well.

DAVE: Brilliant idea, students helping students that is what Student Connections is all about.

KAREN: Absolutely, write us an email at podmag@open.ac.uk.

DAVE: Matt, come and sit down here, tell the students about TMA01 and what they need to look out for.

Interview with Matt Staples

MS: Well obviously we have got TMA01 coming up quite soon and the focus of that TMA01 for DD101 is really outlining how some people on the street benefit and also how others lose and we are asking students to really focus on a street that they know. One way of doing this perhaps is maybe thinking about the street where I live, I live in North London and I think like many streets across the country we have been affected by the recession quite badly, because I'm a Social Scientist and quite like quantities methods I actually counted the number of shops on the street quite recently and saw how many had closed, and so I think the impact of the recession has significantly affected small businesses. They can't compete with online shopping and a number of traders who have been around for a long time have actually gone under in the last couple of years. So immediately you can see there are people who have lost on the street, smaller traders are losing out to maybe bigger businesses and also to online shopping. Alternatively, there are impacts there of course for consumers as well. People have to go further away to do their shopping. Ultimately you could also argue there is a real issue of social inequality and social deprivation because people have lost their jobs and that will have an impact in terms of who is actually losing out, now in terms of who benefits, different groups on a street will focus on different things, there may be new restaurants or alternative shops that have opened basically and they will attract particular group of customers. And so it is about thinking of the street as always influx, just like any other parts of society its constantly been made and remade and so its thinking about any given moment will there be people who have benefited from what's on the street and are there examples of people who will be losing out.

KAREN: And now it's time for the news. OK, so this week we are launching our new website so go and check out the new video that I was not in and you can also most importantly register for the conference. Now Dave what happens when students register?

DAVE: You click on the register now button, it opens up a very short form which will ask you for your name and your email address, once we pick up those we will then tell you everything that you need to know, you are registered for the conference but will also keep you in touch you will get put onto our mailing list and will let you know when things are happening, when the workshops are etc.etc.

KAREN: Yeah, absolutely, so we will then start a dialogue with you and its non-committal at this point so as long as you register we will keep you up to speed whether you just want to know about the conference or want to take part in one of our workshops or sessions that we are doing.

KAREN: Ok, that's all we have got time for today listeners, do drop us an email if you can at podmag@open.ac.uk. We hope you have enjoyed the show.

DAVE: And don't forget to check out that website. See you next week.