What about... benefits to students?

Topic Summary

Imagine what a lecture may be like for an average university student. New concepts may be difficult, taking notes may get in the way of listening fully, attention wanes toward the end, a lecture missed due to illness may put someone behind for weeks. The lecture may be conducted in an unfamiliar language or a learning disability may make lectures or concepts particularly difficult. Imagine if all those lectures were recorded and put online after the fact - the benefits to having that lecture available as a resource become clear.

Things to Consider

- Review difficult concepts at own pace
- Spot-check learning, reviewing only needed parts
- Resource for revision available at any time
- More time to expand on notes taken
- Accommodate for differing attention spans and styles
- Increased flexibility for distance, working or mature students
- Aid to language, learning and medical difficulties
- Direct way to catch up if lecture is missed
- Source of reference for basic queries
- Lecturers can provide a lecture even if they are away (researching, conference, illness, etc.)
- Create resources for information not easily repeated (demonstrations, guest lectures, etc)

Practical Suggestions

A captured lecture is a study tool. It is a good idea to give your students advice about how they can use it to enhance their learning. Showing how to access a captured lecture in class will ensure they know how to find it, and giving them guidance on how you expect it to be used can help them utilise it effectively.

There are some valid issues and practical concerns that make lecturers hesitant to begin capturing: technical glitches, reservations about being recorded, uncertainty about impact on face-to-face elements, or lack of clear institutional policies. Keep in mind that there are many types of lecture capture, and the technology is not restricted to capturing only theatre lectures. Many early-adopters feel that the potential benefits to students outweigh these concerns, at least in their cases.

As seen in the ELTAC Exemplars, most students' response to lecture capture has been overwhelmingly positive. Many studies and most anecdotal evidence confirm that once students have access to captured lectures, they find them to be so beneficial they begin to expect them for all their modules. Student demand has been a major factor in the adoption of the technology. Expect to carry on capturing if you try it out.

Resources

ELTAC document: What About... different methods of lecture capture?
ELTAC Exemplars: http://cuba.coventry.ac.uk/lecturecapture/exemplars

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