

## Podcasting

### What is Podcasting?

Podcasting is a term that refers to any software and hardware combination that permits automatic downloading of audio files and more recently, video files (also referred to as vodcasting). Listeners/viewers have control over when they access these web-based streaming recordings and may subscribe to desired broadcasts (via RSS feed) to receive new episodes.

### Educational Value

Provide faculty with a mechanism for	Provide students with a means for
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• providing portability for educational materials such as lectures, demonstrations, interviews, etc.</li> <li>• offering additional and revision materials for students to download and review at a time that suits the schedule of the teacher (time-shifting).</li> <li>• engaging in convenient PD opportunities</li> <li>• marketing courses and programs to a global community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reflection – in support of a constructivist approach to education by allowing students to create their own podcasts in reflective practice.</li> <li>• accessing additional and revision materials for downloading and review at a time that suits the schedule of the student (time-shifting).</li> <li>• sharing existing and constructed knowledge with other students or learners</li> </ul>

### Examples of Classroom Application

Podcasting has become a somewhat revolutionizing technology for education and therefore its use is becoming widespread. Some examples include:

**Language Arts** – Students receive instructions informing them; 1) how to create a podcast and 2) what kind of content is expected. Students are then asked to survey important novels published since World War II that feature shared themes. Students are asked to complete two podcasts; a five minute reading of a passage from a novel and 2) why the students chose it, what details were most important, what themes and issues were raised, etc. The podcasts are posted on a server and all students are required to listen to selected podcasts prior to a class discussion.

**Literacy** – An instructor records highly insightful discussion of assigned readings for English literacy students to download and listen to in preparation for class. A focus here is to effectively change attitudes by encouraging reading for pleasure.

**Math** – Students access content specific math lessons via podcasting targeted to math standards. By downloading new episodes a new expert voice is brought into the community, offering a new problem for students to solve. Students can then access the next episode for a

solution and explanation. The teacher invites listeners to email questions or comments, offering a degree of audience interactivity.

Trades and Technical – Video podcasts are used to document complex procedures. These videos can be downloaded to portable mp3/mp4 players and the videos replayed when required in a practical working environment. For example, welding students, while on the job may be faced with an equipment setup problem and can access a troubleshooting video just-in-time. Additionally, student manuals are reproduced as audio/video books to assist students with reading or learning disabilities as well as ESL students.

VCC has an iTunes-U website which serves as a launching pad for podcasts produced by faculty and students. The site is used for both educational and marketing purposes and can be accessed at <https://deimos.apple.com/WebObjects/Core.woa/Browse/vcc.ca> (note that you will be prompted to install a free iTunes application client on your computer to enable the site)

### Getting Started

In addition to the educational value offered, podcasting also offers an economical efficiency as it can be done for minimal costs once one has a computer. In fact, many laptops now come with all that you need to begin – a web camera and a microphone.

There are many ways to begin podcasting however a great place to start is by attending a CID hosted workshops as an introduction to podcasting (see <http://cid.vcc.ca/events.html> for the next scheduled session). Additionally, podcast training sessions can be setup on a needs basis by contacting [cid@vcc.ca](mailto:cid@vcc.ca).

### More Information

#### *Educational:*

- The Teachers Podcast. <http://www.teacherspodcast.org/>
- The Western Australian Department of Education and Training – Podcasts in the Classroom.  
<http://www.det.wa.edu.au/education/cmis/eval/curriculum/ict/podcasts/#value>

#### *References:*

- King, K. P. & Gura, M. (2009). *Podcasting for Teachers*. Using a new technology to revolutionize teaching and learning.
- *Educause Connect*. 7 Things You Should Know About Podcasting. Last retrieved Feb 10, 2009.  
<http://connect.educause.edu/library/abstract/7ThingsYouShouldKnow/39380>