English OnLine: An Experiment in Internet Based Teacher Professional Development

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English On Line (http://english.unitecnology.ac.nz) is a New Zealand Ministry of Education sponsored Internet based professional development project for English teachers.

It involves the collaborative development of a web site by the UNITEC project team and one hundred teachers from throughout New Zealand. The site contains fully resourced units of learning, exemplars of student work, an English Forum, collaborative student projects, reviewed links, professional reading and an Internet tutorial.

Teachers involved in the contract work with the project team to develop and quality assure teaching units ensuring, where appropriate, that they include web based, computer and other resources. Communication is mainly on-line although limited use is made of audio conferences with video conferences to be trialed.

This poster presentation provides an overview of the site, focusing on some of the key professional development issues encountered in the model and successes to date. The presentation will also signal the next stages of development in this exciting professional development model.