

Preface

Recent advancements in hardware, software, battery life and durability of portable devices have led to the development of tablet computers and other associated mobile technologies. Tablet technology only became available to the mass market since 2010, and this has forced us to think afresh about how we educate and get the best from our students. Indeed, how we can support students to use affordances, in the sense that a pencil and paper are affordances, to get the best from themselves. We believe that ‘tablets’ such as Apple iPads, Samsung Galaxies, Xperia tablets, etc., can be viewed as transforming devices at all levels within education and especially within fieldwork education. We would even say that they are a ‘disruptive innovation’ within education as they create a new market and eventually displace existing technology, thereby creating new educational possibilities.

Fieldwork is a core element of many Bioscience, Geography, Geology, Earth and Environmental Science degree courses. Fieldwork can provide opportunities for experiential learning and research-led teaching in a ‘real-world’ setting. Teaching and learning during fieldwork can be enhanced through the use of digital technologies; tablets provide opportunities to develop novel approaches to fieldwork pedagogy that neither students nor tutors envisaged possible through traditional means.

The aim of this book is to help you as a tutor to develop novel pedagogic approaches that make the most of these new digital technologies to enhance fieldwork teaching and learning. There is a supporting website that continues to be updated as new technologies and pedagogic ideas emerge: <http://www.enhancingfieldwork.org.uk>.

Enhancing Fieldwork Learning Using Mobile
Technologies

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