

Study Bugs do a poster presentation

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“I absolutely love the format of the study bugs video, it’s clear, simple and humorous!”

Ruth McLellan, Senior Lecturer, Southampton Solent University

“I had been trying for ages to get an explanation of the difference between a citation and a reference from a librarian at another university – this just summed it up in two minutes”

Second year BA Hospitality student

Why use video?

To communicate important messages about an aspect of study skills that students are struggling with, or about the library environment to students in an innovative, informal and slightly quirky style.

The challenge of developing our use of technology in a creative manner.

Further inspiration came from a workshop showcasing training videos that used toys as the main characters.

The study bugs, bought as a promotional tool, then took on a life of their own...

Scripting the short...

The script is developed collaboratively starting with the topic details, written around a joke or ‘hook’ to which all team members contribute. The script is adapted as the technology allows.

Story-boarding is visual as well as verbal and we keep the final vision/look in mind throughout. The writing process is non linear and changes may take place during every stage of production.

All scripting, filming and editing is carried out by Steve, Emma and Maria – this is an enjoyable team building experience, as we share our skills and abilities.

Can I get my equity card yet..?

The following Study Bugs videos are currently publically available on YouTube:

- Study Bugs
- Study Bugs do presentations
- Referencing Study Bugs
- Study Bugs think critically

We will be adding more titles so search for **Devonshire Study Bugs** to view the expanding collection

Embedding

Uploading to Youtube means that the link can either be sent to students, used in PowerPoint to play during a lecture or embedded into Course Resources (Blackboard).

To embed a Study Bugs video in Course Resources:

- Click on *Build Content*
- Click on *YouTube video*
- In the search box, enter the title of the Study Bugs video
- Click on *Select* and choose the relevant options
- Click on *Submit*

Lights, camera, action...

Half-eaten meals, fake essays, plastic elephants, trains and glittery angel wings have all featured as props.

The hardware includes a *Sony PDA150 digital camera*, wooden coffee stirrers and a plastic ruler. One of our favourite techniques is to show a Study Bug moving through his environment, by attaching a ruler, with a Study Bug on the end, under the lens of the camera.



When the camera stops...

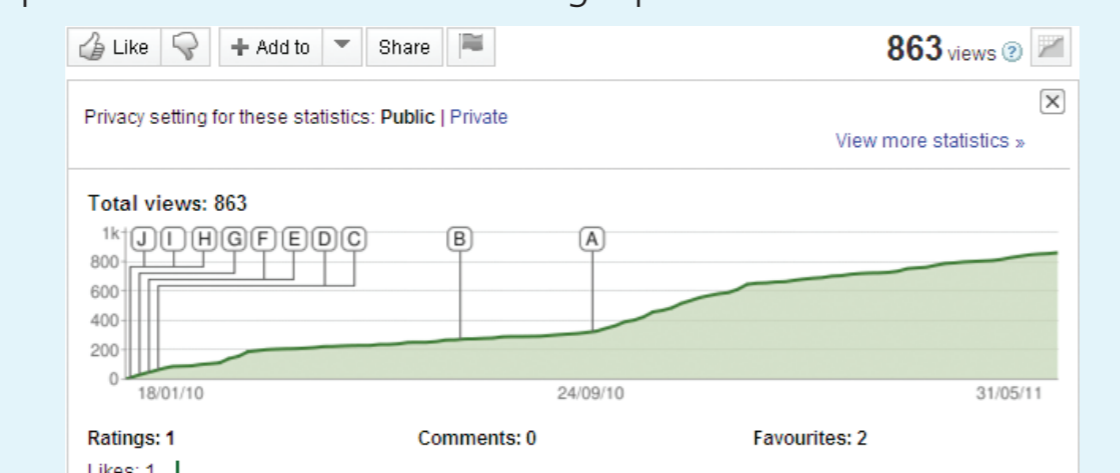
Audio is added in the studio, as part of the post production work. Using *Soundtrack Pro*, all the voices are provided by us (tricked up digitally) – with the occasional guest star. The music was recorded by a local group who gave us permission to use it.

Amazing SFX are achieved using cotton thread, strips of acetate and the more technical work of animating still photographs using *Motion* software.

The editing work is done using *Final Cut Pro*. One of the challenges is to keep the running time down, without losing key messages (or humour!)

Statistics

YouTube Insight provides us with usage statistics, including the page from which viewers have linked to the video, geographic location and demographics of viewers. These statistics could prove useful in the future to target promotion.



Benefits for staff and students

- Easy to embed on Course Resources
- Easily accessible technology enhanced learning objects
- Appeals to those with a visual learning style
- Bitesize pieces of information for independent learning
- Offers a light-hearted approach to study skills, while still delivering key messages
- Accessible to distance and e-learners

Future developments

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| <p>Potential topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to create a reference • Time management • Writing a literature review • Proof-reading | <p>Issues to consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of sub-titles • Promotion of videos • Updating of content |
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