How to Learn Professional Competencies via Blogs

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Abstract
How can one encourage the development of professional skills in a university subject? How can one use a blog to improve teaching results? These questions motivated the study presented in this article. It is structured around the following two basic and complementary objectives: 1. Designing and implementing a teaching innovation project to promote the development of certain professional skills, using the blog as a tool for self-reflection and 2. Evaluating the experience and collecting students’ comments on the use of the blog in a university context.

In pursuit of the second objective, we used a methodology that combined a questionnaire and content analysis. The results make us reflect on the changes that should be introduced in the design of the learning activities and the provision of feedback to utilise the blog as a tool to promote the development of professional skills.

Keywords: blog, professional competencies, reflection, higher education, feedback.

Introduction

There are many reasons for the gradual incorporation of information technology in the university environment, including institutional, commercial or supposed modernity criteria (Osguthorpe and Graham, 2003). In Spanish universities, this fact has also coincided with the process of convergence towards the European higher education area and the proposal to reformulate the curriculum around professional skills.