

Resources to boost your online teaching competences

Introduction

Demands and transition to distance (remote) teaching/learning in short time due to Coronavirus pandemic is tough. We all moved online quickly, experienced disruptions and new working conditions over the last couple of months. Demands for remote teaching/learning as part of the digital transformation will probably extend in post-pandemic era. This topic is inevitable one in any further discussion and envisioning of the social work (digital) education future, especially development of e-pedagogies in a post-pandemic world.

Driven by these exceptional circumstances, as a responsive part of Sosnet project *Developing Online Social Work Courses in English*, we nicknamed it DEOT, our project team (Anu-Riina Svenlin and Gorana Panić) decided to offer our colleagues, social work teachers some resources about online teaching, to inform and inspire you in trying out couple of tools and techniques. Hopefully, these may be beneficial for developing your authentic teaching style in online environment too, and to create even more engaging content for students to learn effectively.

We put together information about free online courses on podcasting and screencasting available today, a playlist of podcasts about social work, self-assessment tool about your online competence, and several recently published book and scientific articles in the digital education area.

All for you to explore further at your own pace, and according to your teaching/learning needs.

These resource pages are based on our individual explorations of free and publicly available information, selective reading, and efforts to learn new skills while practicing social distancing.

Podcasting

Social work educators and researchers as podcasters

Some suggestions about using podcast for teaching and research purposes:

- Popularize your research by telling it as a story (public outreach).
- Use podcast as a tool for exercising public intellectual role.
- Grow your audience based on your niche research topic.
- Interview your “dream guests” in a subject-specific podcast episode.
- Share a book review using podcast.

- Create engaging learning content using short (6 min) podcast episodes featuring key concept or break down complicated reading material, pose higher-level questions for students, etc.

Free online course available >>>

>>> The Power of Podcasting for Storytelling
(University of Wollongong)

On this course you will explore exactly what a podcast is and why it's so powerful for storytelling. You'll develop your own plan for a podcast, produce a script, and finally investigate different platforms for publishing your brand new podcast. This course is for anyone who is interested in creating a podcast, or learning more about podcasts. Taught by Siobhan McHugh.

<https://www.classcentral.com/course/podcasting-11805>

Playlist of podcasts about Social Work

This playlist includes only few podcasts about SW you might be curious to tune in.

Apart from listening podcasts to stay informed, one possibility to use this playlist as social work teacher is to consider including a specific podcast episode in your online teaching as an assignment (e.g. forum discussion).

You can listen these podcasts by clicking a website link provided below or browse them on your preferable podcast player (Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Play Music, Pocket Casts, Podkicker, etc.).

❖ **Decolonize Social Work**

A discussion about social work, oppression, and liberation.

<http://decolonizesocialwork.org/>

❖ **The Social Work Stories Podcast**

A podcast exploring Social Work practice through stories & critical reflection.

<https://socialworkstories.com/episodes>

❖ **The Social Work Podcast**

An exploration of all things social work, including direct practice, human behavior in the social environment, research, policy, field work, social work education...

<http://socialworkpodcast.blogspot.com/>

❖ **NASW Social Work Talks**

NASW Social Work Talks podcast gives us an opportunity to explore topics that social workers care about and to hear from social work experts and practitioners.

<https://www.socialworkers.org/news/nasw-social-work-talks-podcast>

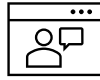
❖ **inSocialWork®**

is the podcast series of the University at Buffalo School of Social Work. The purpose of this series is to engage practitioners and researchers in lifelong learning and to promote research to practice and practice to research. It features conversations with prominent social work professionals, interviews with cutting-edge researchers, and information on emerging trends and best practices in the field of social work.

<https://www.insocialwork.org/>

Besides, visit one of the greatest science dedicated podcast - **Science Friday**, and its episode: A Pandemic Precedent—Set in 1918

<https://www.sciencefriday.com/segments/1918-influenza-pandemic-coronavirus/>



Screencasting

Screencast videos are actual recordings of your computer screen or tablet as opposed to a video of an in-person lecture¹.

Some suggestions about using podcast for teaching and research purposes:

- Popularize your research by telling it as a visual story communicated to a public audience.
- Share your research in a new way. Turn an existing power point presentation of your research into a powerful screencast video, include it on your personal webpage, and reach new audience beyond specific conference audience.
- Cultivate engagement in distance learning by two simple strategies enabled with instructional videos: embedded questions and guided notes.
- Build your own instructional videos. Save time to answer repeating questions, break down complex theoretical concepts in 6 minutes long screencast videos, which students can pause and re-watch it.

In the blog post [Everything You Need to Know About Building a Great Screencast Video](#), educator Kareem Farah talks about screencasts in a friendly-user manner. In his view, building your own screencast video is one of the most effective ways to move instructions online. Still, he recognizes barriers that prevent educators from making a smoother transition to distance learning. Therefore, Farah put together the tips to help guide you through the process of creating screencast videos. You

¹ Everything You Need to Know About Building a Great Screencast Video

<https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/screencast-videos/>

can read more in this blog post or you can listen Farah in the following podcast episode >> [Listen Cult of Pedagogy podcast episode 144: Making Great Screencast Videos](#)

<https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/screencast-videos/>

Try out this free online course >>>

>>> Modern Classroom Essentials

Modern Classroom Essentials equips and empowers educators to create blended, self-paced, mastery-based classrooms of their own. The course supports teachers as they learn how to:

- *Plan and record their own instructional videos*
- *Build student-friendly websites for instructional content*
- *Design effective self-paced learning experiences for students at all levels*
- <https://learn.modernclassrooms.org/courses/essentials?ref=dd209d>

Finding the Right Recording Tool

There are many screencast products with similar functionality, such as Screencast-O-Matic, Camtasia, OBS, etc. Some of these are open source (e.g. OBS), some are available as free and paid version (e.g. Screencast-O-Matic) or only as paid version with free trial (Camtasia). Besides, some paid versions are more affordable than the others.

Therefore, we recommend you check first your university pages to find out to which screen recording and video editing software you already have access to.

For example, University of Jyväskylä offers to the teaching staff access to Screencast-O-Matic. For more info, please check *Ruutukaappausvideoita Screencast-O-Maticilla*

<https://www.jyu.fi/digipalvelut/fi/ohjeet/video-ja-videoneuvottelu/ruutukaappaus-screencast-o-maticilla>

Besides, for more information, including training and tutorials visit the Screencast-O-Matic official webpage <https://screencast-o-matic.com/>

Make a self-evaluation

The 2digi project has created a tool for Language Centre teacher to test digital abilities as a teacher. The test is also useful for other teachers in higher education! This short test leads you to a profile that informs you just what your skills level is. The test is in both Finnish and English.

<https://2digi.languages.fi/self-eval/>

There is also a blog at the same page <https://2digi.languages.fi/2digi-blogi/>

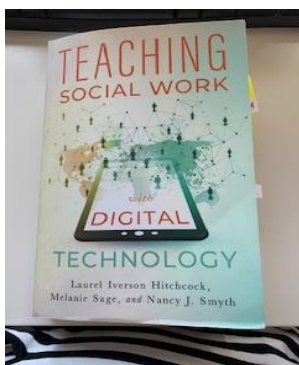
Digisosaalityön verkkokurssi (Pelastakaa Lapset ry.)

Kaikille avoin digisosaalityön verkkokurssi tarjoaa keinon syventää omaa ja henkilöstön osaamista. Verkkokurssi käsittelee digitalisaation mahdollisuuksia asiakkaan näkökulmasta. Kurssi sisältää paljon esimerkkejä ja virittää pohtimaan omaa työtä. Vaikka esimerkit ovat pääasiassa lasten, nuorten ja perheiden palveluista, kurssi soveltuu hyvin kaikille sosaalityön sektoreille. <https://www.pelastakaalapset.fi/digisosaalityo/digisosaalityon-verkkokurssi/>

Want to read more?

Book: Hitchcock, L. I., Sage, M., and Smyth, N. J. (2019). *Teaching Social Work with Digital Technology*. CSWE Press.

<https://www.cswe.org/Bookstore/Books/Teaching-Social-Work-With-Digital-Technology>



Articles:

Kia J. Bentley, Mary C. Secret & Cory R. Cummings (2015) *The Centrality of Social Presence in Online Teaching and Learning in Social Work*, *Journal of Social Work Education*, 51:3, 494-504, DOI: [10.1080/10437797.2015.1043199](https://doi.org/10.1080/10437797.2015.1043199)

Lauren B. McInroy (2019) *Teaching Technology Competencies: A Social Work Practice With Technology Course*, Journal of Social Work Education, DOI: [10.1080/10437797.2019.1671272](https://doi.org/10.1080/10437797.2019.1671272)

Jennifer Spitz. (2019) [The Teacher–Learner Relationship: Considerations for Social Work in the Digital Age](#). Journal of Teaching in Social Work 39:4-5, pages 402-413.

Tami Micsky, Leonora Foels. (2019) [Community of Inquiry \(CoI\): A Framework for Social Work Distance Educators](#). Journal of Teaching in Social Work 39:4-5, pages 293-307.

Jeanna Jacobsen. (2019) [Diversity and Difference in the Online Environment](#). Journal of Teaching in Social Work 39:4-5, pages 387-401.

Frederic G. Reamer. (2019) [Social Work Education in a Digital World: Technology Standards for Education and Practice](#). Journal of Social Work Education 55:3, pages 420-432.

Sophie Goldingay, Jennifer Boddy. (2017) [Preparing Social Work Graduates for Digital Practice: Ethical Pedagogies for Effective Learning](#). Australian Social Work 70:2, pages 209-220.

Stay safe, informed, and engaged!

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