How can digital technology be applied to increase research capacity?

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...the way we engage with information is changing...
How do we use digital technology to engage with research?
Where do we use digital technology to engage with research?
When do we use digital technology to engage with research?
Who can use digital technology to engage with research?
How can we **utilise** these qualities for increasing research capacity?
The ARCADE project
(African/Asian Regional Capacity Development)

• 2x four-year projects (2011-2015) are funded by the European Commission’s 7th Framework Programme.
• 16 partners across Africa, Asia and Europe, coordinated by Karolinska Institute in Sweden.
• AIM- to use innovative educational technologies to strengthen health research across Africa and Asia.
• Development of doctoral and post-doctoral online courses, blended learning modules and joint teaching programmes to enable training of researchers in low- and middle-income countries.
• Additionally, the ARCADE projects work at an institutional level to strengthen education services, financial and administrative research management, research uptake capacity, and network building.
Online courses

- All housed in an online course repository- http://arcade02.phs.ki.se/
- Open access moodle platform
- All content licensed and released under a creative commons license
- Online self-study learning modules, designed for students and teachers
- Content was developed in line with a needs assessment.
What is included in a learning module?

- Video lectures
- Course overviews
- Presentation slides
- Reading lists
Joint teaching programmes

• Shared teaching of blended courses across institutes.

• Joint PhD degree programmes – established between Makarere University in Uganda, Stellenbosch University in South Africa and Karolinska Institute in Sweden.

• Shared learning and capacity building workshops and sessions across the consortium.
E-book

- 10 chapter guide to implementation research
- Hosted on e-publishing site
- Includes multimedia content
- Will be easily updated
- downloadable, by chapter.
How-to-guides

• Professional skills for researchers (non topic focus)
• Twitter, policy briefs, writing a blog,
• Will be shared on social media.

Twittorial (twit-or-ree-al); 1) Noun.
A beginners guide to using twitter (for research).
What have we learnt about using digital technology to develop research capacity?
Let's look at the good points...

- Digital technology and access- anyone with an internet connection and a device can access online content.
- Ability to create engaging content – if done effectively!
- Connectivity- students and teachers can engage outside of the classroom, researchers can connect whilst on fieldwork.
...but what about the challenges?

- ‘Digital divide’ still exists.
- Bandwidth and connectivity issues are a problem facing research institutes and researchers in LMIC’s.
- Increasing access doesn’t necessarily mean increasing quality and engagement.
- E-learning programmes and approaches are still in their infancy and need to be evaluated.
Thank you for watching...

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