WORDPRESS AND ILLNESS NARRATIVES: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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Stories of Experience, Illness and Recovery
People tell stories, and some of the most moving and illuminating stories are the ones we tell after illness and trauma. In The Diving Bell and the Butterfly Jean-Dominique Bauby told us how living with Locked-In Syndrome was for him, a story told painstakingly by repeatedly winking one eye-lid – the only movement he could
How it starts...

Illness narratives
Book Club for Masters physiotherapy students
Advantages

• Opening participation to people outside the university

• Organic development of resources

• Feedback from beyond the student population

• Ability to share resources, e.g. to a service-user/ patient population

• Professional appearance, using WordPress
Choose Themes from directory of ready-made WordPress Themes
Choose Header Image, how to arrange Menus, Widgets like ‘tags’, ‘attribution for image’ etc.
Challenges

• How to incorporate the site into student assessment

• How to encourage busy students to use, if it is not part of assessment

• (NB Illness Narratives book club used in classroom activities)

• Appearances on Phones may differ from iPads, laptops
  • E.g. number of menus
Widgets

e.g. to limit appearance to first 100 words
Questions

• How do I incorporate student input?
  • Via Comment boxes?
  • Via comment boxes that are initially vetted?
  • Or blog page(s) arranged by Coventry Domains team

• Are students providing material for the Web-pages?
  • How to monitor these
  • NB wider access raises issues of responsibility re content

• Who has administrator rights etc.?