Entrepreneurship Education

START DSP

Digital - Sustainable - Profitable

Entrepreneurial University Educators Package and Toolbox

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www.start-dsp.eu

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Entrepreneurship Education

START DSP

Digital - Sustainable - Profitable

Tool: Digital Knowledge Sharing Platform

Sustainable Entrepreneurship for Universities

MMS, Ireland

Co-funded by the European Union

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What is a Knowledge Sharing platform?

These platforms enhance learning, enable collaboration, and improve knowledge retention in university settings. A knowledge-sharing platform is a software system that is used for sharing the knowledge repository of an enterprise by implementing features such as

- Supports multiple **different file formats** (documents, presentations, research papers).
- **Video integration** for simplified learning (e.g., for lectures, tutorials, and webinars)
- **Advanced search** tools to perform a dedicated deep search within available content. Finds relevant academic content quickly.
- **Q&A Forums** where students and faculty can engage in discussions.
- **Collaboration features** such as social interaction tools, group workspaces, and shared documents. Other prominent important features
- **Integration with learning management systems (LMS)** for seamless course content sharing.

A **knowledge repository** is a digital database or repository of all the relevant and important information related to an enterprise or a company.

When professionals collaborate online, they actively produce and maintain resources over time, ensuring these resources remain useful for others in the long term, regardless of where they are, says Alena Seredko

(Dissertation Digital Platforms Enhance Knowledge Sharing And Problem-Solving)

https://www.gu.se/en/news/digital-platforms-enhance-knowledge-sharing-and-problem-solving

Knowledge is often considered the most valuable asset in today's modern economy. In a world where information is readily available at our fingertips, the ability to share and utilise knowledge effectively has become crucial for both individuals and organisations. Knowledge sharing not only enhances productivity and innovation but also fosters collaboration and growth. It involves the exchange of information, skills, and experiences among individuals and organisations. Knowledge sharing can take place in various forms such as face-to-face interactions, written documentation, and digital platforms.

Source FasterCapital

Why Universities Need a Digital Knowledge Sharing Platform

Digital platforms also facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing between students and teachers. and interdisciplinary knowledge sharing and collaboration. complete assignments, participate in discussions and share resources with their peers on the platform. (Digital Platforms in Higher Education, Opportunities)

- Encourages **cross-disciplinary learning** by connecting students and faculty from different departments.
- Supports **entrepreneurship education** by allowing students to share startup experiences and failures.
- Provides **access to mentorship from industry** professionals, alumni, and faculty.
- Facilitates **research collaboration** by offering a digital workspace for sharing findings and ideas.
- **Enhances learning experiences** by providing real-world case studies, success stories, and interactive discussions.

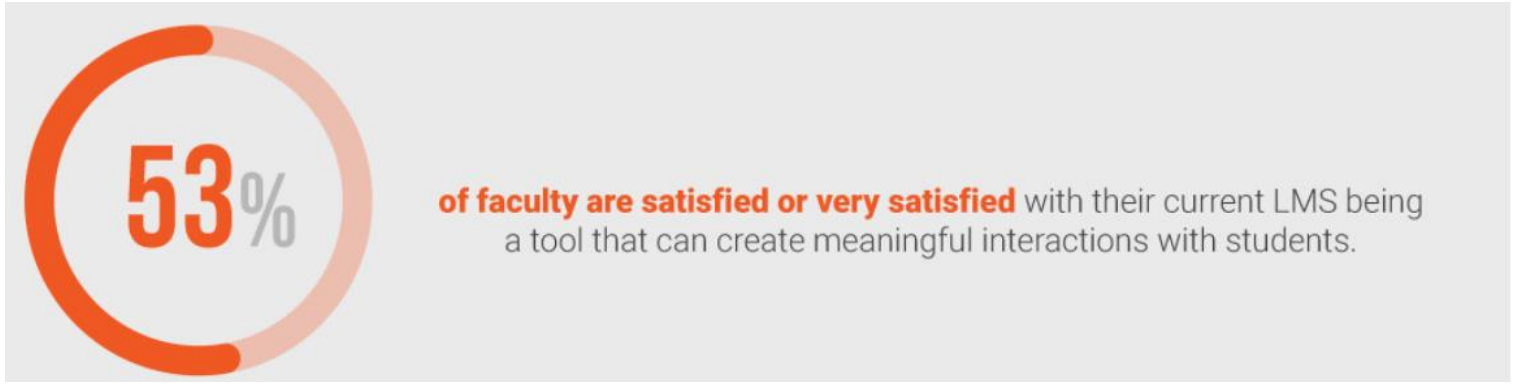
20% Employee Time Lost Looking for Information

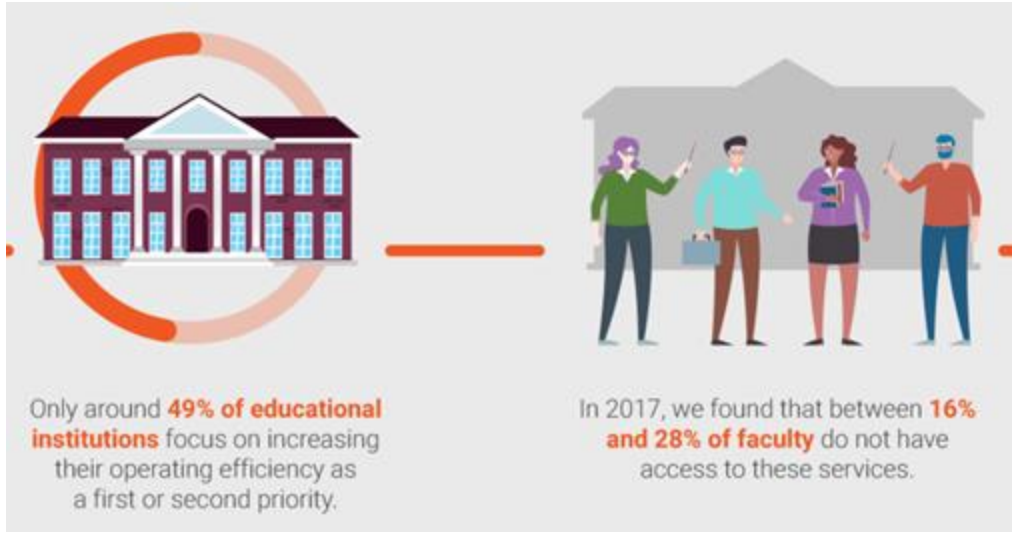
Data published recently by a well-known research company suggests that a large chunk of employees' time is wasted in looking for different information online. As per the available figures of the Interact research, as much as 20 percent of the corporate time is lost by the employees researching relevant information for performing their routine tasks.

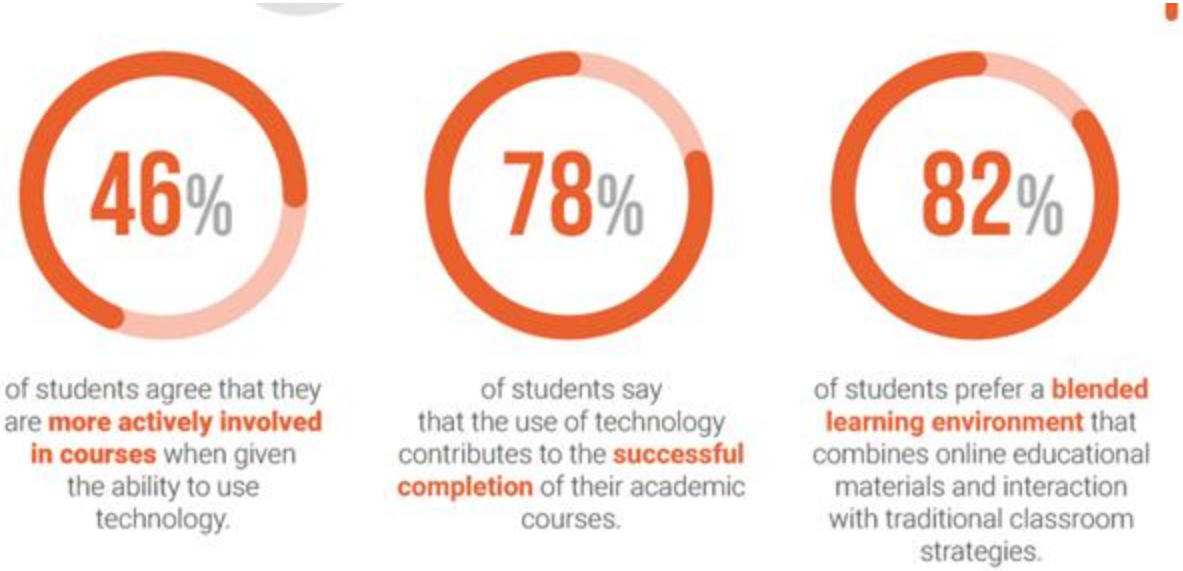
Source: Linked In

10 Best Practices & Tools to Enhance Knowledge Sharing within the Organization

SmartRooms Report: Transforming Digital Information Sharing and Collaboration in Higher Education







https://smartroom.com/blog/latest-news/transforming-digital-information-sharing-and-collaboration-in-higher-education/

1

Boosts Productivity

Leads to a more efficient and effective work environment. When employees freely share their knowledge, expertise, skills and experience they no longer keep it to themselves. Together, teams can solve problems, complete tasks, learn from each other, and find innovative solutions.

2

Innovation and Creativity

Knowledge sharing exposes individuals to new ideas and perspectives. When knowledge is shared across different departments, teams, or even industries, it encourages cross-pollination of ideas and facilitates the discovery of novel approaches. Take, for example, open-source software development communities like Linux or WordPress. These platforms thrive on the principle of knowledge sharing, allowing developers worldwide to contribute their expertise and collectively create innovative solutions that benefit the entire community. By sharing knowledge, individuals and organizations can tap into a vast pool of insights, leading to groundbreaking discoveries and advancements..

Source: FasterCapital

3

Collaboration and Teamwork

Organisations achieve higher engagement and satisfaction as individuals feel valued and empowered by the trust, respect, and collaboration enabled among team members. By sharing knowledge, together they can solve complex problems more efficiently, make informed decisions, and reach common goals.

4

Continuous Learning and Growth

In today's rapidly evolving economy, knowledge becomes obsolete at an alarming rate. Therefore, embracing a culture of knowledge sharing is essential for individuals and organizations to stay competitive and adapt to changing circumstances. By actively sharing knowledge, individuals can keep up with the latest trends, technologies, and best practices in their respective fields. This continuous learning not only enhances personal growth but also enables organizations to remain agile and responsive to market demands.

Phase 1

Planning and Strategy

Key Features of a Digital Knowledge-Sharing Platform

- **Discussion Forums** – Enable students and faculty to ask questions, share insights, and engage in structured discussions.
- **Mentorship Portals** – Connect students with faculty, alumni, and industry professionals and experts to provide academic and career guidance.
- **Resource Libraries** – A database that stores and provides access to research papers, case studies, best practices, guides, and open educational resources.
- **Collaboration Spaces** – Support academic teamwork with digital whiteboards, shared document editing, and project management tools for co-creation.
- **Live Webinars & Q&A Sessions** – Host expert lectures, virtual workshops, and interactive sessions for academic enrichment.

Example: A university-hosted Moodle or Blackboard discussion board for students to engage in peer-to-peer learning and faculty Q&A.

Example: A university mentoring program using platforms like PeopleGrove or Handshake to link students with professionals.

Example: A university digital repository or platforms like JSTOR and Google Scholar integrated with the university's library system.

Example: Using Miro, Google Workspace, or Microsoft Teams for student research projects and faculty collaboration.

Example: Universities using Zoom or Webex for guest lectures, panel discussions, and online office hours.

Examples of Usage & Implementation

Phase 1 Planning and Strategy

- **Define the Purpose:** Identify the university's needs—whether it's entrepreneurship, research collaboration, or industry engagement.
- **Choose the Right Tool:** Consider platforms like Discourse, Slack, Circle.so, or an LMS like Moodle.
- **Identify Key Stakeholders:** Include students, faculty, and external partners.

What NOT to Do:

❌ Don’t launch without a clear structure—define discussion topics, rules, and moderation strategies.

❌ Avoid selecting a tool without consulting potential users for feedback.

Importance of Choosing the Right Tool

Choosing the **right knowledge-sharing and collaboration tool** is crucial for universities because it directly impacts:

Knowledge Retention & Accessibility

Universities generate vast amounts of **knowledge** across research, teaching, and student projects. Without the right platform, **valuable insights can be lost** or **buried in emails or chat threads**. **Structured platforms (e.g., Discourse)** help retain knowledge for future students, faculty, and external partners.

Inclusive Participation

Universities involve **diverse stakeholders**: faculty, students, administrators, alumni, and external partners. **Choosing an accessible and user-friendly tool** ensures everyone can **contribute** and **benefit**. Platforms like **Mighty Networks** or **Circle** encourage **peer-to-peer learning and community building**, enabling **collaboration across disciplines**.

Importance of Choosing the Right Tool

Collaboration Across Departments

Siloed departments often result in **duplicated efforts** and **missed opportunities for interdisciplinary projects**. **Real-time tools like Slack** improve **cross-departmental communication**, while **forums like Discourse** allow for **knowledge-sharing across faculties**.

Supporting Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Platforms like **Tribe or Mighty Networks** can **nurture student startups, research spin-offs, and innovation hubs**. They **connect students, management and lecturers with mentors, funding opportunities, and industry partners**, enabling **a culture of innovation**.

Sustainability & Long-Term Impact

SDG application example: universities increasingly align with **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. A **dedicated, well-organized platform** (e.g., **Discourse for SDG discussions** or **Mighty Networks for SDG innovation communities**) ensures that **projects grow beyond individual courses** or **research periods**.

Importance of Choosing the Right Tool

Time & Cost Efficiency

The wrong platform can lead to **communication breakdowns, wasted time**, and **frustration**. **Overlapping tools** (e.g., Slack for chat, Discourse for discussion, and Circle for community) can **balance speed with depth**, **ensuring resources are used efficiently**.

Key Question for You:

- ❑ What's the biggest priority for your university?
- ❑ Cross-departmental collaboration?
- ❑ Building an SDG entrepreneurship ecosystem?
- ❑ Retaining knowledge for long-term access?
- ❑ Engaging students and alumni as partners?

Universities Need to be Mindful of…

- ✓ **Data Privacy & Security:** Universities handle sensitive student and research data, requiring strict compliance with data protection laws like GDPR (EU), FERPA (US), or local regulations. Commercial platforms may prioritize monetization, sometimes leading to data mining or third-party access, which universities must avoid.
- ✓ **Academic Integrity & Intellectual Property.** Universities must ensure content originality and protect faculty research, theses, and course materials from unauthorized distribution.Commercial platforms often use user-generated content models, which may not guarantee academic accuracy.
- ✓ **Customization & Open Access.** Academic platforms need customisation options for specific curricula, research projects, and learning methodologies. Universities often support open-access knowledge sharing, whereas commercial platforms might restrict content behind paywalls.

Universities Need to be Mindful of…

- ✓ **Community & Collaboration Focus.** University platforms emphasize collaborative learning, research sharing, and faculty-student interaction rather than just content dissemination. Commercial platforms focus more on market-driven content discovery and competitive advantages.
- ✓ **Long-Term Sustainability & Cost Considerations.** Universities often seek cost-effective, long-term solutions and may opt for open-source platforms like Moodle, DSpace, or Open edX. Commercial solutions may involve subscription fees, licensing costs, or vendor lock-in, which could be financially restrictive.
- ✓ **Integration with University Systems.** Platforms must seamlessly integrate with Learning Management Systems (LMS), library databases, and research repositories. Commercial platforms may not offer the same level of academic system integration, limiting their usability.
- ✓ **Ethical & Pedagogical Considerations.** University platforms must align with educational goals, student engagement strategies, and teaching methodologies. Commercial platforms prioritise user engagement for business growth, which may not always support educational best practices.

Choosing the Right Tool

Here’s a comparison of the platforms mentioned, specifically from the perspective of a university setting focusing on inter-departmental and inter-stakeholder knowledge sharing (faculty, students, external partners). Learn what platform is best for what and compare before deciding.

Platform	Key Strengths	Limitations	Best For
Discourse https://www.discourse.org/	Structured, forum-style discussions; Open-source and self-hosted option; Searchable knowledge base; Supports long-form, in-depth discussions	Less real-time chat feel; Might feel "formal" for some users	Long-term knowledge repositories, academic communities, research collaboration
Tribe (now Bettermode) https://www.tribe.so/	Customizable, community-focused; Strong branding and modular layout; Good for user-generated content and social learning	More business/customer-centric; Could be overkill for simple university needs	Student-led innovation hubs, entrepreneurship communities, alumni platforms
Circle.so https://circle.so/	Simple, community-focused; Integrates well with existing content platforms; Modern interface, built-in events and live streams	Limited custom workflows; Less robust for long-term knowledge storage	Faculty-student discussion spaces, online courses, private groups for projects
Slack https://slack.com/	Real-time communication; Channels for departments/teams; Integrates with many university tools (Google, Microsoft, Zoom, etc.)	Can get noisy; Difficult to manage long-term knowledge storage; Free version has message limits	Quick updates, project teams, interdepartmental communication, student clubs
Mighty Networks https://www.mightynetworks.com/	Combines community + courses + events; Peer learning focus; Good for student/alumni networks; Custom branding	Subscription costs; Overlap with LMS may cause confusion	Topic-specific, co-creation or innovation hubs, knowledge exchange, innovation labs

Recommended Use	Recommended Platforms
Knowledge Repository (e.g., Research, Policy, SDG Discussions)	Discourse
Real-time Communication & Collaboration (e.g., Project teams, quick updates)	Slack
Community Engagement & Innovation Hubs (e.g., Entrepreneurship, SDG Startups, Alumni)	Mighty Networks or Tribe
Community Engagement & Innovation Hubs (e.g., Entrepreneurship, SDG Startups, Alumni)	Circle.so
Best Overall Combination for Universities	
For **day-to-day real-time collaboration** and **long-term knowledge archiving and structured discussions**.	Slack + Discourse
If you need to implement a **community-driven initiative, community building or a university hub** or **innovation ecosystem**.	Mighty Networks OR Tribe

Choosing the Right Tool

Advantages & Disadvantages of Platforms for Universities

Advantages for Universities

Slack can be a useful communication and collaboration tool for universities, but it also has some drawbacks. Here's a breakdown of its **advantages** and **disadvantages**:

1. **Enhanced Communication** – Slack allows real-time messaging, reducing email clutter and making communication more efficient for students, faculty, and staff.
2. **Collaboration & Teamwork** – Channels can be created for different classes, research groups, or administrative teams, promoting structured discussions and collaboration.
3. **Integration with Other Tools** – Slack integrates with Google Drive, Zoom, Dropbox, and other education-related tools, making workflow management easier.

Advantages for Universities

4. **File Sharing & Organization** – Users can share documents, slides, and other resources quickly while keeping conversations organized.
5. **Flexibility & Accessibility** – Slack is available on desktop and mobile, allowing students and staff to stay connected from anywhere.
6. **Encourages Informal Learning & Engagement** – Discussion channels can encourage peer-to-peer learning, knowledge sharing, and networking among students and faculty.
7. **Notification Control** – Users can customize notifications to minimize distractions and improve focus.

Disadvantages for Universities

1. **Information Overload** – Too many messages or channels can become overwhelming, making it hard to track important discussions.
2. **Distraction & Productivity Issues** – Slack's instant messaging format can be distracting, especially if students or staff are engaged in multiple conversations.
3. **Limited Free Plan** – The free version has a message history limit (only the last 90 days of messages are accessible), which can be a problem for long-term academic projects.
4. **Not Ideal for Structured Learning** – Unlike Learning Management Systems (LMS) like Moodle or Blackboard, Slack lacks features for assignments, grading, or formal course structures.
5. **Security & Privacy Concerns** – Sensitive information might be at risk if security settings aren't properly configured, especially when integrating third-party apps.

6. **User Adaptation** – Some students and faculty may struggle to adapt to Slack's workflow, requiring training and onboarding.
7. **Potential for Off-Topic Conversations** – Without moderation, Slack channels can become cluttered with unrelated discussions, reducing effectiveness.
8. **Final Verdict**

Slack is a great tool for universities seeking to improve communication and collaboration, but it should be used alongside a Learning Management System (LMS) for structured learning. Proper guidelines and training can help mitigate its disadvantages.

Slack Review: Features, Pros And Cons – Forbes Advisor: This article provides an in-depth analysis of Slack's functionalities, highlighting its advantages and disadvantages

Your guide to Slack for higher education – Slack: This resource discusses how over 3,000 higher education institutions use Slack to facilitate classes and manage campus affairs online.

Choosing the Right Tool

moodle

Discussion

Advantages & Disadvantages of Platforms for Universities

Advantages for Universities

Moodle-Based Discussion Boards

1. **Structured Learning Environment:** Moodle's discussion boards are integrated within the Learning Management System (LMS), providing a centralized platform for course-related discussions.
2. **Asynchronous Communication:** Students can participate at their convenience, allowing time for thoughtful responses and accommodating different time zones.
3. **Resource Sharing:** Facilitates the sharing of course materials, links, and other resources within discussion threads.
4. **Assessment Integration:** Instructors can grade and provide feedback directly through the discussion board, streamlining the evaluation process.
5. **Community Building:** Encourages interaction among students, fostering a sense of community and collaborative learning.

Disadvantages for Universities

1. **Limited Real-Time Interaction:** The asynchronous nature may lack the immediacy of real-time discussions, potentially slowing down the exchange of ideas.
2. **User Engagement:** Some students may be less inclined to participate actively, leading to uneven contributions.
3. **Navigation Challenges:** Depending on the Moodle setup, discussion boards can become cluttered, making it difficult to follow threads.
4. **Technical Barriers:** Users unfamiliar with Moodle may face a learning curve, potentially hindering effective participation.
5. **Over-Reliance on Text:** Primarily text-based interactions may not cater to diverse learning preferences.

Pros and Cons of Moodle as an LMS Platform – Course Orbit: This article explores the benefits and drawbacks of using Moodle as a Learning Management System.

Choosing the Right Tool

mighty networks

Advantages & Disadvantages of Platforms for Universities

Advantages for Universities

mighty networks

1. Community Building. Enables engagement and peer-to-peer knowledge sharing among students, faculty, alumni, and external stakeholders. Supports the development of interdisciplinary communities.

2. Custom Branding. Allows universities to create a branded, central platform that reflects their identity and serves as a hub for various academic and extracurricular activities.

3. Diverse Content Formats. Supports articles, discussions, events, online courses, and group spaces. Offers flexibility for different types of knowledge sharing, event management, and blended learning.

4. Event & Networking Features. Includes integrated event management and networking tools that facilitate seminars, workshops, and professional connections among users.

5. Long-Term Engagement. Helps maintain connections with students and alumni after graduation, encouraging ongoing collaboration and knowledge exchange.

6. Reduced Distractions. Offers a focused, community-oriented environment compared to platforms like Slack or social media, which can overwhelm users with constant notifications.

Disadvantages for Universities

mighty networks

1. Cost. Premium features, such as branded networks and advanced analytics, can be expensive, especially when scaling usage across large student and staff populations.
2. Limited Real-Time Communication. Lacks instant messaging or fast-paced chat capabilities like Slack. It is better suited for asynchronous discussions and community-building.
3. Learning Curve. Faculty and students unfamiliar with community platforms may need training. Resistance to adopting new platforms can also be a challenge.
4. Integration Challenges. If not integrated with existing university systems (e.g., learning management systems, email platforms), it can function as a standalone tool, leading to potential fragmentation.
5. Not Suitable for Document Collaboration. Does not replace platforms like Google Workspace or Microsoft Teams for real-time collaborative document editing. It is better suited for discussions and resource sharing.
6. Privacy and Data Security. Universities must ensure that the platform complies with data protection regulations (e.g., GDPR), as it is a third-party system handling personal information.

Choosing the Right Tool

LinkedIn Groups

Advantages & Disadvantages of Platforms for Universities

Advantages for Universities

LinkedIn Groups

1. **Professional Networking:** Provides access to a broad network of professionals, facilitating industry connections and knowledge sharing.
2. **Diverse Perspectives:** Members from various backgrounds contribute to discussions, enriching the learning experience.
3. **Resource Availability:** A platform for sharing articles, job postings, and other professional resources relevant to group members.
4. **Engagement Opportunities:** Encourages active participation through comments, likes, and shares, promoting dynamic discussions.
5. **Visibility and Exposure:** Active involvement can enhance personal branding and professional visibility within one's industry.

Disadvantages for Universities

LinkedIn Groups

1. **Information Overload:** The vast amount of content can be overwhelming, making it challenging to filter valuable information.
2. **Quality Control:** The open nature may lead to spam or low-quality posts, requiring active moderation.
3. **Privacy Concerns:** Discussions are often visible to all group members, which may deter sharing of sensitive information.
4. **CommercialiSation:** Some groups may be dominated by promotional content, reducing the focus on genuine discussion.
5. **Engagement Variability:** The level of interaction can vary, with some groups experiencing low participation rates.

LinkedIn Review: Features, Pros & Cons – Forbes Advisor: This review provides an in-depth look at LinkedIn's functionalities, highlighting its strengths and weaknesses.

Phase 2,3,4

Phase 2 Implementation and Customization

Phase 3 Community Building and Engagement

Phase 4 Evaluation and Optimisation

Examples of Usage & Implementation

Phase 2 Implementation and Customization

- **Set Up the Platform:** Customize categories, topics, and permissions based on the university's focus areas.
- **Create Engagement Strategies:** Encourage participation through incentives, gamification, and featured discussions.
- **Train Moderators & Users:** Provide clear guidelines and tutorials.

What NOT to Do:

❌ Don’t overload users with complex navigation—keep the interface simple and intuitive.

❌ Avoid allowing unmoderated discussions—establish clear rules and guidelines.

Examples of Usage & Implementation

Phase 3 Community Building and Engagement

- **Encourage Active Participation:** Assign community managers or ambassadors to keep discussions lively.
- **Host Regular Events:** Organize live Q&A sessions, industry talks, and interactive challenges.
- **Promote Collaboration:** Encourage users to co-develop research papers, startup ideas, or projects.

What NOT to Do:

❌ Don’t let the platform become inactive—regularly update content and moderate discussions.

❌ Avoid making it exclusive—ensure accessibility for all students and faculty.

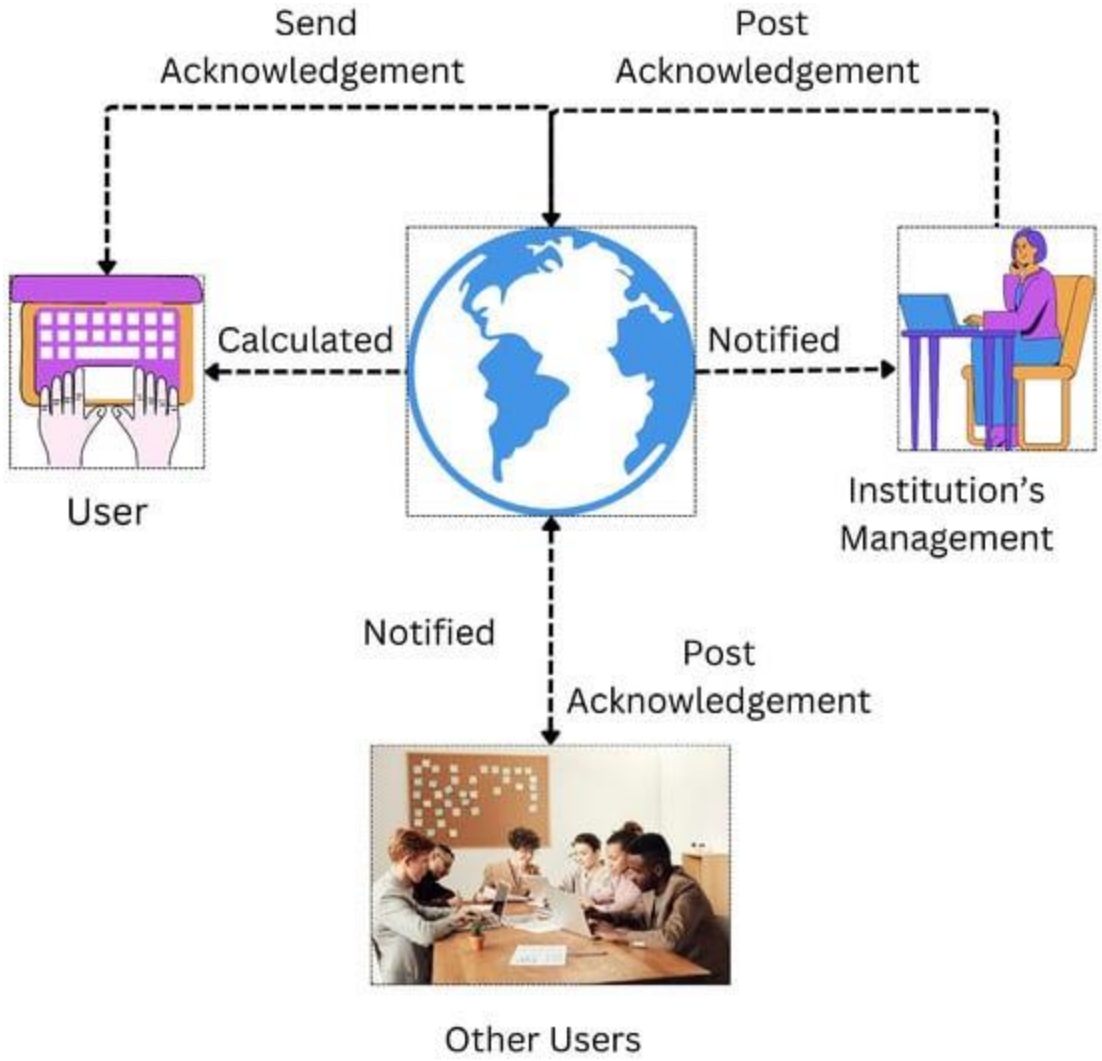
Tips for Effective Knowledge Sharing

- **Encourage a culture of sharing:** Create an environment where knowledge sharing is valued and rewarded. Recognise and appreciate individuals who actively contribute to the collective knowledge base.
- **Leverage technology:** Utilise collaborative tools, intranets, or knowledge management systems to facilitate seamless sharing and access to information within your organization.
- **Provide training and support:** Offer training programs or workshops to help individuals develop effective knowledge-sharing skills. Provide guidance on how to document and disseminate knowledge efficiently.
- **Lead by example:** Managers and leaders should actively participate in knowledge-sharing initiatives and set an example for others to follow. Their involvement sends a powerful message about the importance of sharing knowledge.

Knowledge sharing is a critical factor in driving productivity, innovation, collaboration, and growth in the modern economy. By enabling a culture of sharing and implementing effective knowledge sharing strategies, individuals and organizations can unlock the full potential of their collective knowledge, leading to improved performance and success.

Create Interactive Campaigns

1. **Entrepreneurship Hub:** Students share startup experiences, get feedback, and connect with investors.
2. **Research Collaboration:** Faculty and students co-develop projects and share academic resources.
3. **Industry Networking:** Alumni and professionals offer mentorship and career advice.



Source: MDPI Towards Designing a Knowledge Sharing System for Higher Learning Institutions

Example 1: Interactive Entrepreneurial Network Campaign

Get Inspiration from the University of Cyprus (UCY)

In 2015, the University established a **Centre for Entrepreneurship** (C4E), continuing the activities of the previous Diogenes Incubator. C4E's mission is *"to promote the culture of entrepreneurship in the academic community of the University of Cyprus".*

It created a network-sharing platform that consisted of

1. Education & Training
2. Support & Mentoring
3. Networking
4. Makerspace
5. Research & Analysis, and
6. Projects

C4E's core staff comprises of 11 experts: a director, an operations manager, an education and outreach manager, a secretary, 2 special scientists, 2 C4E ambassadors, and 3 students for technical support. Moreover, a council with eight members supervises C4E's work, and 39 mentors to support the university community.

Source: HEI Innovate

Example 1: Interactive Entrepreneurial Network Campaign

Get Inspiration from the University of Cyprus (UCY)

Activities Included;

- **Cyprus took part in the GEM** for the first time through its research/analysis programmes to stimulate entrepreneurship and related policies. Specifically, C4E contributed to the research and analysis of entrepreneurship in the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) and the European Startup Monitor (ESM).
- It highlights and communicates the island's entrepreneurial activity
- In 2022 C4E presented the results of a new study on **the Mapping Cyprus Entrepreneurial Ecosystem[5]** and the evolution of the past decade. With this report C4E intends to evaluate success factors "in relation to the formation, operation and evolution of entrepreneurship in Cyprus"

Source: HEI Innovate

Example 2: Sparking Innovation: Engaging Entrepreneurship Activities for Students

Get Inspiration from Higher Education Professional

This article explores a range of engaging entrepreneurship activities you can implement, designed to motivate and empower UK university students on their entrepreneurial journeys.

- **Interactive Workshops and Masterclasses** e.g., Problem-Solving Challenges, Bootcamp Intensive Workshops, Design Thinking Sessions.
- **Nurture Competitive Spirit with a Twist e.g.,** Hackatons, Business Plan Competitions, Social Impact Pitchathons.

Source: Higher Education Professional

Examples of Usage & Implementation

Phase 4 Evaluation and Optimisation

- **Track Engagement Metrics:** Use analytics to measure participation, discussion quality, and user satisfaction.
- **Gather Feedback:** Conduct surveys and interviews to improve the platform.
- **Iterate & Scale:** Expand features, integrate with existing university tools, and refine based on feedback.

What NOT to Do:

❌ Don’t ignore feedback—regularly adapt and improve based on user needs.

❌ Avoid focusing solely on quantity—prioritize meaningful discussions and interactions.

Important to Improve Platform Design

It is crucial that professional education prepares newcomers to engage knowledgeably but critically on these platforms. To improve both education and the platforms themselves, we need to analyze how professionals already use these platforms and for what purposes. If we understand how different features are used, designers can create tools that better support collaboration and knowledge sharing on a large scale. "

(Dissertation Digital Platforms Enhance Knowledge Sharing And Problem-Solving)

https://www.gu.se/en/news/digital-platforms-enhance-knowledge-sharing-and-problem-solving

Get the Most out of Your Knowledge Sharing Platform

- Benefits Of Knowledge Sharing
- Enhancing Problem Solving Skills for Better Decisions
- Facilitate Social Learning And Knowledge Sharing Among Your Employees And Stakeholders
- Create a Feedback Culture: Encouraging Open Communication
- Unleashing The Power Of Cross Functional Teamwork
- Knowledge Sharing Practices for Productivity Enhancement

How You Know its Working…

- Higher Engagement in Entrepreneurship Programs – More students participating in startup incubators and business competitions.
- Improved Knowledge Sharing – Increased collaboration between students, researchers, and external experts.
- Stronger Alumni and Industry Networks – Enhanced mentorship opportunities and career pathways.

Ensure You Have an Administration Team to…

- **Moderate Discussions**: Ensure meaningful and respectful exchanges.
- **Update Resources**: Regularly add case studies, research papers, and success stories.
- **Host Live Events**: Organise webinars, Q&A sessions, and expert talks.

Resources & Supports

Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027)

The **Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027)** plays a crucial role in supporting knowledge-sharing platforms for higher education by fostering digital transformation and enhancing access to innovative learning tools. Here's how it assists in building and sustaining such platforms:

1. **Enhancing Digital Infrastructure:** Encourages universities to adopt **cloud-based** and **AI-driven** knowledge-sharing platforms. Promotes **interoperability** between different digital tools, ensuring seamless knowledge exchange.
2. **Encouraging Open and Collaborative Learning:** Supports the development of **Open Educational Resources (OERs)** to allow free and easy sharing of academic materials. Promotes **collaborative platforms** where educators, students, and researchers can share insights and best practices.
3. **Strengthening Digital Competencies:** Focuses on upskilling educators and students to effectively **use and contribute** to knowledge-sharing platforms. Encourages digital literacy programs to ensure **inclusive access** to online knowledge-sharing tools.

https://education.ec.europa.eu/focus-topics/digital-education/action-plan

Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027)

4. **Enabling Cross-Border Cooperation:** Facilitates **international partnerships** between universities for **joint research, shared resources, and virtual mobility**. Encourages the use of **blockchain for credential verification**, making knowledge transfer across institutions seamless.
5. **Supporting AI and Data-Driven Education:** Promotes AI-powered **recommendation systems** for personalized learning. Encourages the use of **data analytics** to track and optimize knowledge-sharing engagement.
6. **Encouraging Institutional Innovation:** Supports **higher education institutions (HEIs)** in creating **virtual campuses** and **interactive digital libraries**. Funds **research and development** for new digital solutions that enhance knowledge-sharing.

How Universities Can Implement It

- Leverage EU and national funding to build **integrated knowledge-sharing platforms**.
- Develop **faculty training programs** to enhance the use of digital tools for education.
- Establish a **centralized repository** of best practices, case studies, and digital teaching resources.

https://education.ec.europa.eu/focus-topics/digital-education/action-plan

Knowledge Sharing Platforms Resources

1. **Times Higher Education:** Why Knowledge Exchange Is Important For Universities
2. **University of Gothenburg:** Digital Platforms Enhance Knowledge Sharing and Problem Solving
3. International Conference on System Science 2022: Digital Knowledge Sharing in Higher Education

Open Access Knowledge Sharing Platforms for Universities

Wikis & Collaborative Knowledge Bases

Best For: Institutional knowledge, research collaboration, and open content creation.

- **Wikiversity** – A Wikimedia project supporting open educational content and research collaboration.
- MediaWiki – The software behind Wikipedia, great for internal university knowledge bases.
- DokuWiki – A simple, open-source wiki platform for collaborative document sharing.

How It Helps:

- Open access knowledge-sharing for faculty, staff, and students.
- Crowdsourced learning materials and **institutional memory** storage.
- Customizable for specific university needs.

University Networking Platforms

1. **Zenodo** (www.zenodo.org) – Open repository for research papers and data sharing.
2. **DSpace** – Open-source repository software used by universities.
3. **PubPub** – A collaborative platform for open-access publishing and peer review.
4. **ResearchGate** (www.researchgate.net) – Social network for researchers to share and discuss their work.
5. **Academia.edu** (www.academia.edu) – Platform for publishing and sharing academic research.
6. **MERLOT** – Open educational resources for higher education.
7. **Nextcloud** – Open-source cloud platform for document sharing and collaboration.
8. **OnlyOffice** – Open-source alternative to Google Docs & Microsoft Office 365.
9. **Mattermost** – Open-source team communication platform.

More Resources & Supports

Discourse Installation Guide

Discourse is an open-source discussion platform that you can use to host a forum for your community. Installing Discourse on your own server or cloud environment provides flexibility and control compared to using a hosted forum service. However, the installation process can be complex and time-consuming – especially for those with minimal technical experience.

Your guide to Slack for higher education

Tips and best practices for turning Slack into an engaging, effective tool to support distance learning and knowledge exchange.

Set up a Slack workspace for your college or university course

More Resources & Supports

Moodle University Implementation Guide

Implementation of adaptive learning at higher education institutions by means of Moodle LMS

Role of Knowledge Management in Educational Institutions

In any institution, not just Education, knowledge management is:

"…the process of capturing, distributing, and effectively using knowledge." – Tom Davenport (1994)

This means finding out what knowledge the institution holds, finding a way to write it down or record it, and enabling others to benefit from this knowledge.

Entrepreneurship Education

START DSP

Digital - Sustainable - Profitable

Thank you

Any questions?

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