

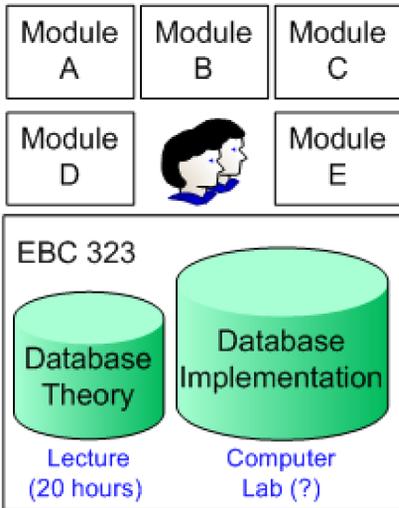
A Teaching Intervention in Database Systems using an Online and Interactive Simulation Environment

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1 Motivation

EBC323 Database Systems (Level 3 module; 10 credits) has equal emphasis on **database design** (conceptual, logical and physical database design) and **implementation** (using MS-Access).

Students would benefit from lab sessions; however, making them compulsory would risk the module being over-taught at the expense of the other modules. **How can technology help?**



2

MYITLab (Pearson Education) provided students the flexibility to work through online and interactive course material at a time and place of their choosing.

Considerations

- *MyITLab* is hosted on enterprise-class Web and Database servers and provides students a simulation environment for gaining hands-on skills in MS-Office.
- According to Pearson, *MyITLab* has high-service availability, provides encryption and multi-layered security access, etc. (<http://www.myitlab.com>)
- Not a free service – licence required for every student.
- Admin rights required on client machines for installation of *MyITLab* plug-ins.
- Managing two online systems for module delivery – *Blackboard* and *MyITLab*.

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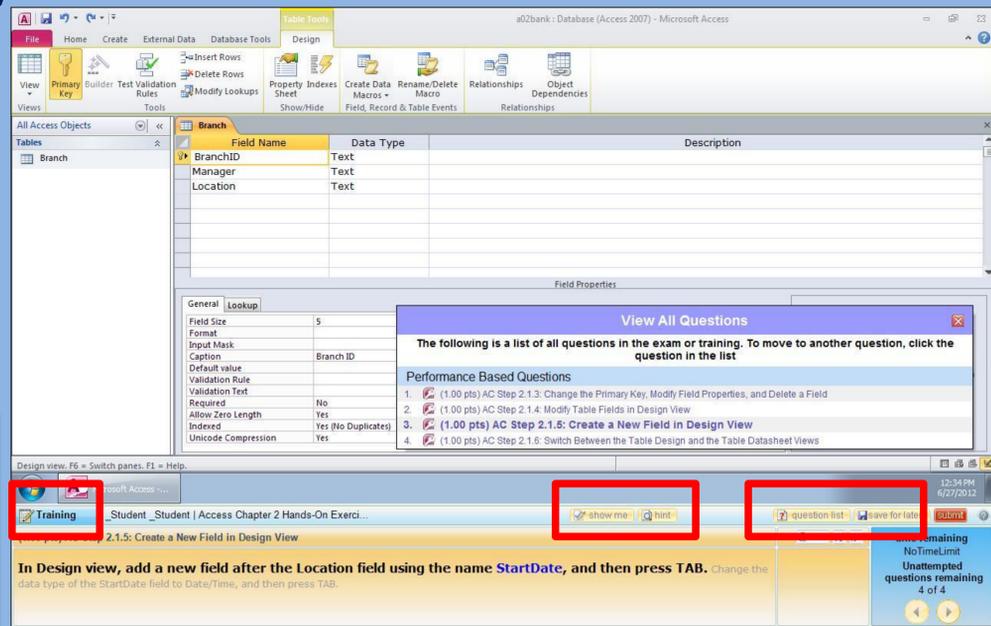
MyITLab Simulation Environment

Access within and outside of campus

One time *MyITLab* registration

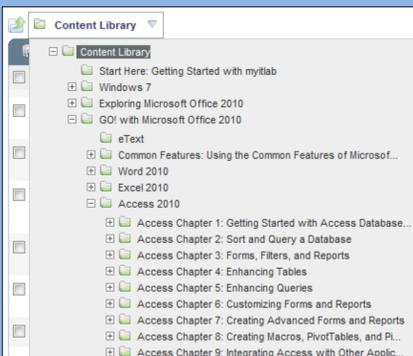
Training features like "hints" and "show me" (some require speaker/microphone)

Tutors were present during the *MyITLab* sessions, and although attendance was not compulsory, the students were encouraged to attend these sessions

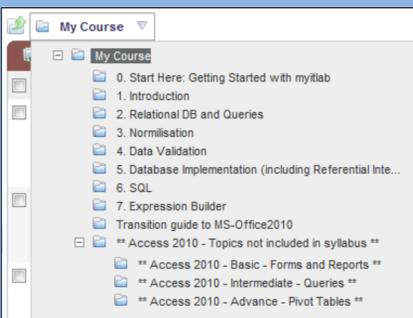


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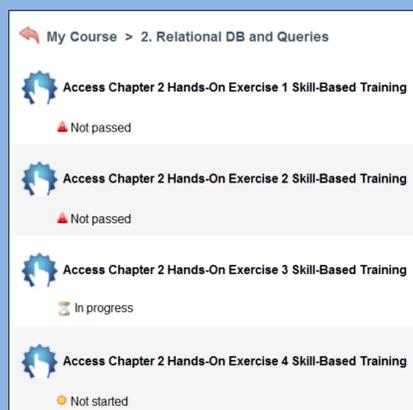
Instructor View



Create course content



Student View

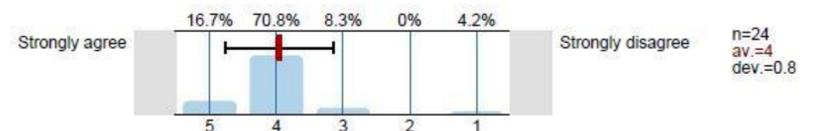


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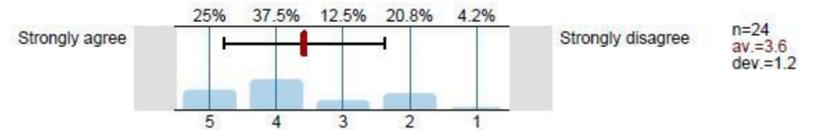
Evaluation

3. About MyITLab

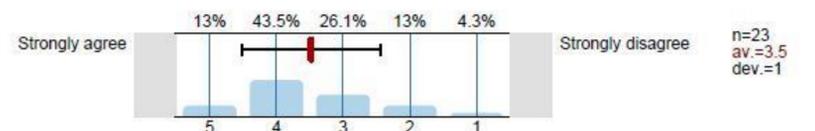
3.1) I have regularly accessed MyITLab



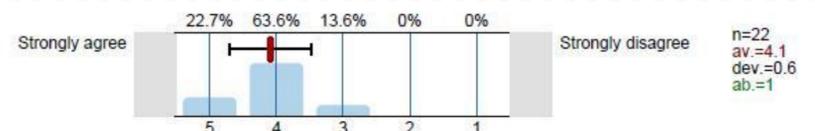
3.2) I have attended all the scheduled practical sessions on Fridays



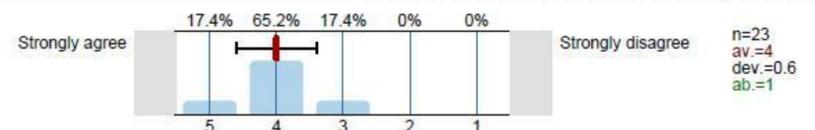
3.3) I have completed the MyITLab exercises outside of lab sessions



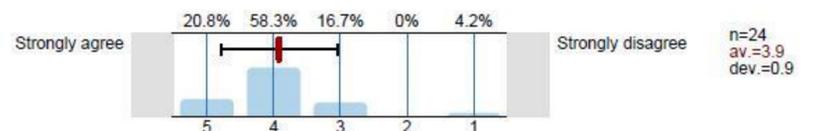
3.4) I have found MyITLab easy to use



3.5) I am generally happy with the content of the self-learning MyITLab exercises



3.6) I have benefited from use of MyITLab



3.7) MyITLab should be offered to students in the next academic year

