

Student Info

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Student Name: Mohammad Sufyan Khan
Student ID: 2412986

Lecturer's Name: Fahad Ahmed

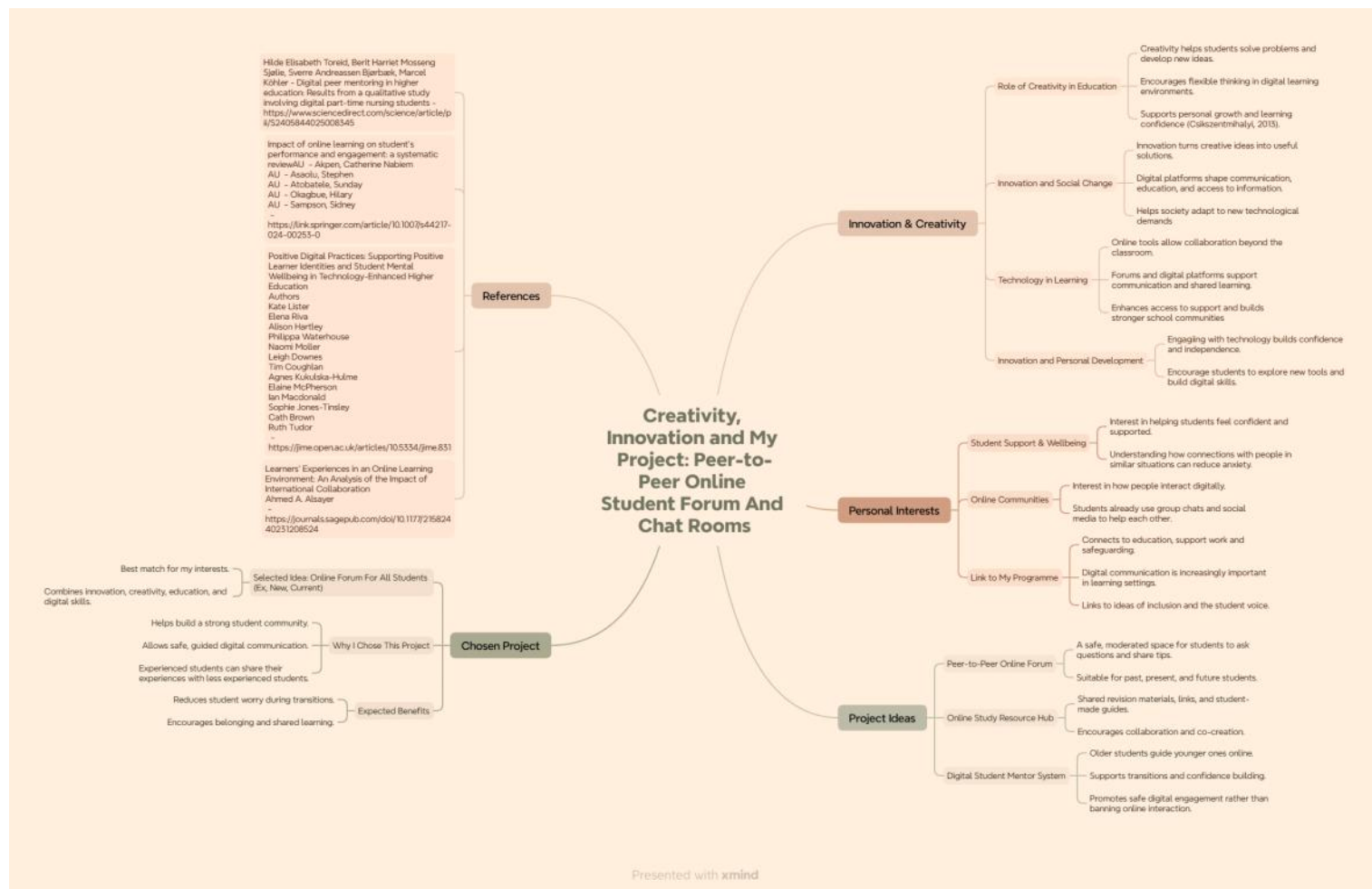


**University of Wales
Trinity Saint David**

London Campus

Mind Map

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References

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Task 2: Q1: Aim, Objectives, and Research Area

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Q1. Aim and Objectives

Aim

The aim of this project is to create a peer-to-peer online forum for students who are entering education, leaving education or currently in education to speak to each other to discuss everything from troubles in class with certain topics all the way to employment and the skills needed to succeed. This is so students who are entering education can ask students questions about things that may be worrying and having another student answer will provide a sense of comfort and confidence and hopefully everyone will be able to confidently ask questions that they are afraid to ask in class, to fulfill curiosity. This would also be for teachers who could come online to chat to students from different schools, colleges or universities to pass down knowledge or give advice about certain aspects of schooling.

Objectives

1. To survey and see what students would like to see in a forum.
2. To look at current online forums for students and unrelated forums to see how they are modeled towards users.
3. To create a prototype online forum using AI to speak to itself as two students to test functionality and usability.
4. To see what benefits the forum could give and the challenges I could face by creating the forum.
5. To assess how the forum will help students feel more engaged, connected, and supported by each other in their educational journey.

Task 2: Q2: Research Philosophy

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Q2. Research Philosophy

The best research philosophy for our project is "Interpretivism". Because the project focuses more on understanding human experiences, motivations and interactions with each other in an online environment. The project is focused on understanding experiences people go through and the interpretivism approach allows us to see things from subjective viewpoints and can give us more insight into how students communicate with each other, how they behave socially and how they form connections with one and other. This philosophy gives us a deeper understanding of the experiences each person goes through and what is expected of students in different groups which is suitable for our research into digital forum support environments [1] [2]

Task 2: Q2: Search Tools, Databases, and Search Strategies

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To identify the literature for this project I think the best tools would be academic search tools along with databases. Things like google scholar let see a huge variety of materials for online communities and peer-to-peer support alongside other technologies [3] . Library databases are a good tool to help you research because they let you research from several sources which get you more material to access. The information in these databases also has a high standard for academic research which means it will be more reliable and more relevant to what you are studying. [4]

Search strategies will have things like keyword searches and phrase searching. Some keywords to search would be things like "Student Forums", "Student Chat" or other things related to students asking each other for help/asking general questions another example of this would be "How do I make friends at a new school?". There are a few more ways to search such as the below but I personally do not believe students will search like this however it is a good example of how some people may search for the forum.

"Peer-to-peer learning" AND "Online forum"

"Student Chat" AND "Digital platform"

"Online mentoring" OR "Student support"

Using an approach like this will give us strong research that will help us both with designing the forum as well as monitoring the usage and feedback, this will keep us up to date and informed on how the setup is going.

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Q1. Strategies to Enhance Validity, Reliability, Generalisability, and Ethical Considerations

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Making sure we have a strong quality of research is important when we explore the development of something like a peer-to-peer forum. We need to validate the accuracy of our research and make sure we are asking clear questions that give us the answers we need. For example, our questions should be focused more on things such as student engagement, digital support, mentorship and community interaction which means we would be collecting data from different sources e.g. students, staff, and other literature[1].

A way to keep everything reliable is to make sure our data and the methods we use to research are consistent, if we keep changing how we collect data it will no longer be reliable as we will have many types of data with none matching up to what is needed. Carrying out an initial single test can help with this so we can have a brief idea of what kind of data we will be aiming for. We also need to keep notes of all the people who are participating in the data collection e.g. what they were asked, what they did, what they answered. We can use this to get general ideas of what is and is not needed and what would be more user friendly [2].

To improve our generalisability our research should be done using diverse groups of people. For our forum we should have people from different backgrounds, countries, age groups, courses and all with past, present and future students. Using a sample group like this will help us make sure the research is not limited to one group of people and makes it so we can create the forum for all people to be included and not have students feel excluded [3].

Ethical considerations mean we require informed consent, keeping people anonymous and making sure their data is kept secure and confidential. Before taking or using any data all participants should be aware of what their data will be used for, where it will be used and they should also be aware of their rights and rights to withdraw their data at any time. Making sure these rules are followed will help us research in a respectful and responsible way keeping both parties happy [4].

Q2/3. Data Collection Methods,

Pilot Data Collection Method

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Q2. Data Collection Methods

For my project which is about creating an online peer-to-peer forum and chat for students, I think having both qualitative and quantitative methods would be the best approach, this is because using both gives us an all-around understanding of the needs required to create the forum and also prepares us for any expectations for hosting an online community like this.

Some data collection methods that would help, for example:

- Online Questionnaire, an online questionnaire (Quantitative), would be a good way to collect data from many people, it's efficient and easily accessible for the information we need to gather. Putting closed-end questions and multiple-choice items will help us to identify trends and compare results across different groups e.g. comparing past students to new students.
- Focus Groups (Qualitative), let small groups of students gather and discuss between themselves the positives and negatives of the forum. This lets us understand more of the issues we would face directly from the students themselves.
- Reviewing existing forums is a great way to collect data because we would collect data from something that is already existing and functioning this gives us a better insight into how it works and lets us think of more ideas we could use in our own forum. [5]

Pilot Data Collection Method

A pilot study should be done before the data collection. This makes sure everything is clear, consistent, and suitable for the research we will do.

Pilot Questionnaire

A short version of the questionnaire (5–7 questions) will be shared with a small group of students. This will check:

- whether the questions are clear
- whether the wording is appropriate
- whether the survey is easy to navigate
- whether any important areas have been missed

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