

## **RaPAL/NIACE/UCU Conference Workshop Summary**

### **Using Social Networking to Develop Literacies**

**Workshop presenters: Claire Collins and Tara Furlong**

**Rapporteur: Sue Southwood**

The workshop explored the role of interactive learning technologies, devices and resources to support the teaching, learning and assessment. Participants were encouraged to keep a reflection and action log throughout the workshop. We started with an activity using our own mobile devices which enabled us to reflect on our own skill levels. In my group, everyone struggled with texting an answer to a simple question although this is a commonly used practice! We reflected on the complicated nature of long URLs; changing literacy practices and how difficult it is to keep up, even with strong literacy. We also discussed the prevalence of Facebook, Twitter and other social networks amongst ourselves and our learners. We agreed that literacy practices are definitely affected by advancing technology – often making literacy even more important. We discussed the challenges of using mobile technology that included connectivity, tutors' knowledge and ability and barriers and motivations to engage with it. The workshop gave us an opportunity to take stock and put together an action plan for engaging with learning technologies.