

Interactive comment on “Experiences of using mobile technologies and virtual fieldtrips in Physical Geography: implications for hydrology education” by D. G. Kingston et al.

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daniel.kingston@geography.otago.ac.nz

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We thank the referee for his positive comments and constructive criticism on this manuscript. Our reply to the numbered General Comments are given below:

Please note that points 1, 4-6, 8-13 and 15 were observations by the reviewer that do not require any action or revision of the manuscript.

2. We now comment on the novelty of the use of PDAs in combination with a DVD-based virtual fieldtrip (p3, line 17).

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3. Conclusions: we have strengthened these, but retain the caveats as they are important contextually. For example, although the increased use of technology has been shown to be beneficial here, an effective teaching strategy needs to be in place to make good use of the technology. Additionally, and as explained in more detail in Section 5 (page 8, line 25), other studies (e.g. Spicer and Stratford, 2001) have found that replacement of field work with virtual field work has not been favoured by students.

7, 14. Further references have been added to the Section 5, and the missing references corrected.

Response to Specific Comments:

Section 4: - We have clarified the opening paragraph of Section 4 to describe better how students were recruited for the pilot study.

- Figure 3 shows the entire distribution of marks for the module pre- and post-redesign. Furthermore, we have now explicitly stated the numbers of first class grades (page 7, lines 19-22).

- The change in student feedback for the question of whether the practical classes were helpful was statistically significant between pre- and post-redesign years. Although the overall module satisfaction score increased, this was not statistically significant between the two periods (page 7, lines 25-27).

- Section 4 accurately describes the comments (positive and negative) from the focus group, the only group to experience both the old and new field exercises. In terms of the annual student satisfaction surveys, only the general themes of recurring student comments are recorded most years (with the exception of 2007/2008, the first year the new exercises ran for the whole class) – meaning that a table would not be particularly informative. The positive nature of these comments regarding the PDAs and DVD is now noted (p7, lines 28-30).

Section 5:

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- Additional references have been added and corrected as requested.
- The scale for questions 6 and 8 in Table 1 has been clarified.

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