

Research Article

Easy Access Center (EAC552) for Centralized Materials and Assessment's Guidelines for Course Philosophy and Current Issues

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Abstract: The changes of education environment post pandemic led to more practical methodologies of transferring knowledge and information virtually. Even though the traditional face-to-face method promising the impactful learning session, the students still need to access easily to the materials, a systematic centralized site to be referred related to courses and proper guideline regarding their required assessments. For the course code CTU552 Philosophy and Current Issues specifically, the students facing problem in completing their assessments consists of written assignment and presentation. Thus, Easy Access Center (EAC552) had been developed to be used by students for the course. This research aims to develop a comprehensive website to the course with addition of guidelines for the course assessment. Another objective of this research is to analyse the feedback from students about the effectiveness of the website. A survey questionnaire was distributed to students registered in CTU552 from 2021 until semester March 2023. This research collected 287 students shows that most students agree that this website helping them in understanding more about the course, giving them latest information, and guiding them in completing assessment. In EAC552, there are materials and core information for the course such as syllabus, slides, lecturers' names, videos, games, and past year questions. The students also will find guidelines in producing high-quality written assignments and scoring presentation assignments. The guidebook and the guide video enhancing students' ability to write quality assessment and scoring their presentation well. Because of the course is a required code for all local universities, this EAC552 may be commercialized to be used by other students from public and private universities in Malaysia. In conclusion, the centralization of materials and guideline regarding the course simplifies the learning process for both lecturers and students.

Keywords: Centralized; assessment; guidelines; post-pandemic; education



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1. INTRODUCTION

In this digital era, blended learning considered as an important element to support the effectiveness of session. In higher education institution in specific, the learning management system (LMS) is a medium of instruction, delivery, managing teaching and learning. This system will help lecturers to deliver and give instruction more practical to their students. Additionally, the LMS system also facilitating students with courses' materials, activities, guideline, and course-related information. As a result, the learning session will be more accessible, interactive, flexible, and effective (Ghilay, 2019; Ngeze, 2016; Kasim and Khalid, 2016)

Because of COVID-19 at the end of 2019, students and lecturers in higher institutions had adapted to the new education environment. Even though the traditional face-to-face method is return along with the reopening of all institutions post pandemic, some of lecturers finds more practical methodologies to transfer knowledge and information to students with technologies as medium. Moreover, the students who are digital-literate generations still need technologies-based sources to be referred through their studies period. The new medium, platform and approaches involving technologies must be explored by students and instructors to provide more effective and accessible teaching and learning session (Mazlan & Phang, 2021). Thus, EAC552 had been developed to be a centralize website to be referred by students and delivering materials and information by lecturers freely, practically, and easily.

Another problem faced by students is to finish and score their assessments in this course consists of written assignment and presentation. Even though the guideline of preparing these assessments may be given by lecturers in early of every semester, the students still need guideline to be referred specifically in the process of writing and preparing presentation. Through the lecturers' analysis of student assessment, the student involved in plagiarism and not understand the step of writing and referencing well. Wan Mohtar et. al. (2018) suggested to the universities to organize courses and seminars on ethical academic writing because students normalizing the plagiarism in their writing which led to the violation of academic ethics. Thus, the new added element of EAC552 is a guideline to write assignment and preparing presentation well. The guideline consists of flipbook and guide video to be referred anytime including whenever the students having questions or problems during preparing their assignments.

2. METHOD & MATERIAL

This study used a survey to observe the impact and effectiveness of comprehensive guidelines to writing assignment and preparing presentation according to rubric for CTU552 course code. Singleton & Straits (2009) mentioned that quantitative research and surveys are suitable and commonly used in social and psychological research because of the effectiveness of describing and analyzing human behavior. To achieve the objective of this research, the primary data collected using survey method with questionnaires by google form as medium. The survey had been distributed to the targeted group related to the subject directly, the students registered in CTU552 for two semesters, from 2021 until semester March 2023. The study involves the time of platform Easy Access Center CTU552 (EAC-CTU552) is created. This research collected 287 students involved in this survey. All comments and input were collected than analyzed by using descriptive analysis.

3. FINDINGS

Among the findings of this research are related to the development of website Easy Access Center CTU552 (EAC552), CTU Digital Flipbook, and guide video for preparing assessments (written and presentation) according to the official rubric. The elaboration as follow:

3.1 EAC552 website

Easy Access Center (EAC552) had been developed specifically by lecturers in UiTM Cawangan Johor Kampus Segamat to be used by their own students registered in CTU552 Philosophy and Current Issues. This website is dedicated to the course code to deliver information, transferring materials and students interactively involve in activities. With this website, the students have access to all materials related to the course. EAC552 is considered as a systematic centralized site to be referred, specifically to a proper guideline regarding their required assessments. Figure 1 and figure 2 are the appearance of the website.



Figure 1. EAC552 Website



Figure 2. The features in EAC552

Regarding the feedback about the EAC552 website, majority of respondents find that the EAC552 is helpful, and they are clear with the syllabus, guideline, and rubric. The responses are evaluated in figure 3.

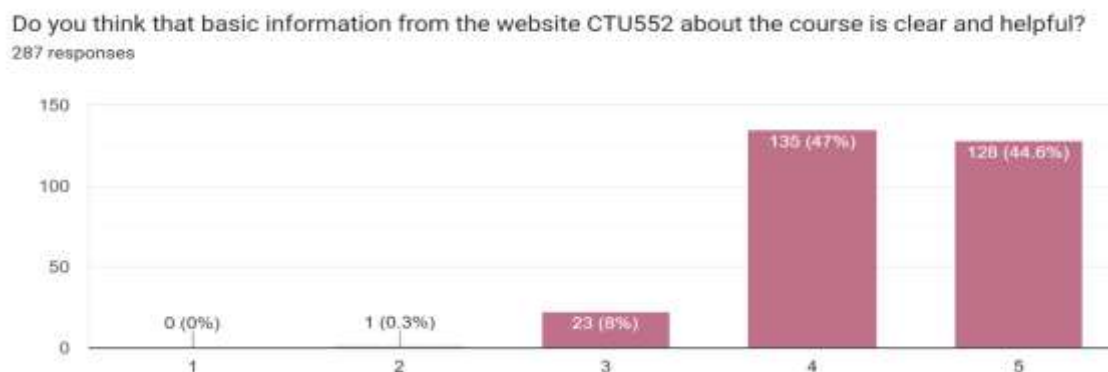


Figure 3. Students' responses about basic information in EAC552

Apart from that, the respondents mostly agree that they understand the latest syllabus well based on information given through EAC552. The explanation as illustrated in figure 4.

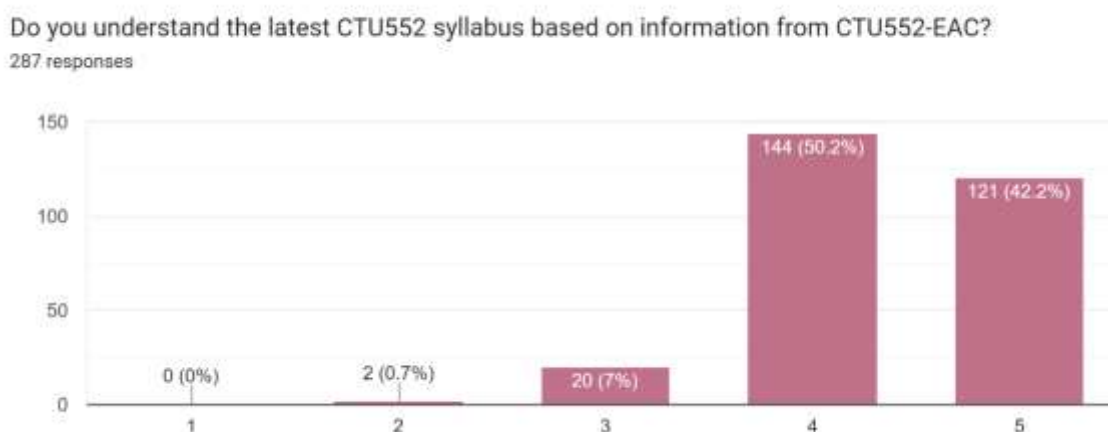


Figure 4. Students' responses about their understanding based on EAC552.

3.2.2 CTU Digital Flipbook

In EAC552, there is a digital guidebook consists of explanation of assignment's concepts and related components such as the scoring guide "rubric", the structure of assignment, formatting, referencing, plagiarism-checking instructions, and several samples of written assignments. This guidebook named 'CTU DIGITAL FLIPBOOK' using PowerPoint template, easy to read, may be flip in any topic with systematic numbering for every page. This guidebook was developed to accommodate student needs in preparing written assignments. The flipbook was designed as figure 5, 6 and 7.



Figure 5. CTU Digital Flipbook

KRITERIA/ MARKAH		MARKAH			
1.	Markah	0.5	1	1.5	2
1.	Pengenalan	Pengenalan yang tidak atau kurang relevan	Pengenalan dinyatakan secara umum	Pengenalan dinyatakan dengan jelas	Pengenalan menepati tajuk dan objektif kajian
2.	Markah	1	2	3	4
2.	Susunan Isi/ Idea	Isi/ Idea tidak menepati skop kajian atau kurang jelas	Isi/ Idea diberikan secara umum	Isi/ Idea menepati skop kajian, tahap baik	Isi/ Idea disusun dengan jelas dan kemas, tahap sangat baik
3.	Markah	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12
3.	Analisa & Perbincangan	Analisa dan perbincangan terlalu umum dan tidak terfokus kepada tajuk.	Analisa dan perbincangan yang terfokus dan bertepatan dengan tajuk.	Analisa dan perbincangan yang terfokus, baik dan agak kritis.	Analisa dan perbincangan yang sangat, kritis dan tersusun.
4.	Markah	1	2	3	4
4.	Rumusan dan Kesimpulan	Rumusan dan Kesimpulan tidak relevan dengan tajuk atau dinyatakan secara umum	Rumusan dan Kesimpulan yang diberikan memuaskan	Rumusan dan Kesimpulan sesuai dengan tajuk dan objektif kajian	Rumusan dan Kesimpulan sangat bertepatan dengan menepati tajuk dan objektif kajian
5.	Etika Penulisan	Terdapat banyak kesalahan dalam format penulisan dan tidak mengikut format sitasi	Format penulisan dan sitasi dipatuhi dengan betul namun mempunyai banyak kesalahan	Format penulisan dan sitasi dipatuhi dengan betul namun mempunyai sedikit kesalahan	Format penulisan dan sitasi adalah tepat
6.	Markah	1	2	3	4
6.	Bibliografi/ Rujukan	Bibliografi yang diberikan tidak sesuai dengan tajuk atau tidak autentik	Bibliografi yang diberikan sesuai dengan tajuk	Bibliografi yang diberikan sesuai dengan tajuk dan pelbagai	Bibliografi yang diberikan autentik dan menepati tajuk kajian serta bersifat Kontemporari
Jumlah Markah					30

Figure 6. Rubric in CTU Digital Flipbook

KANDUNGAN		
Kandungan	Muka Surat	
Rubrik Permarkahan Tugas Bertulis	1	iv
Format Untuk Hasilkan Cover Page Tugas Bertulis	4	
Contoh cover depan	6	v
Format Isi kandungan	9	
Format Tugas Bertulis	11	
Cara menulis pendahuluan	13	
Kandungan		Muka Surat
Panduan Susunan Idea/Isi		18
Panduan Penulisan Analisa & Perbincangan		21
Format Penomboran		21
Contoh Format Penomboran		24
Format Rujukan		27
Etika Penulisan		33
Plagiarism dan Qurginal		35
Contoh Tugas Markah Tinggi		41
Contoh Tugas Markah Rendah		43

Figure 7. Contents in CTU Digital Flipbook

For the feedback for CTU Digital Flipbook, most of the respondents agree and strongly agree that they are clear about the references. The digital flipbook explains part of the references very well. Among the explanations are regarding the authenticity of references, referencing methods and citations. The feedback illustrated as figure 8 and figure 9.

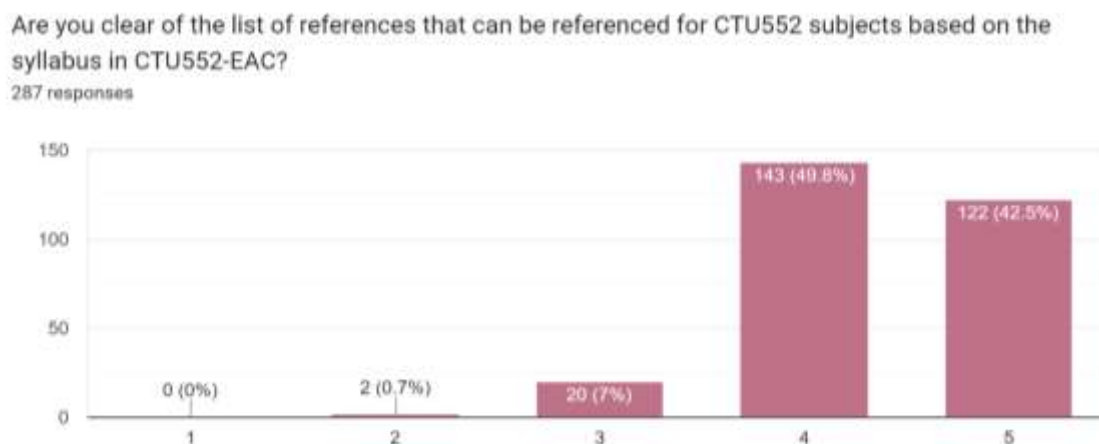


Figure 8. Students' responses about the references for assessments based on EAC552.

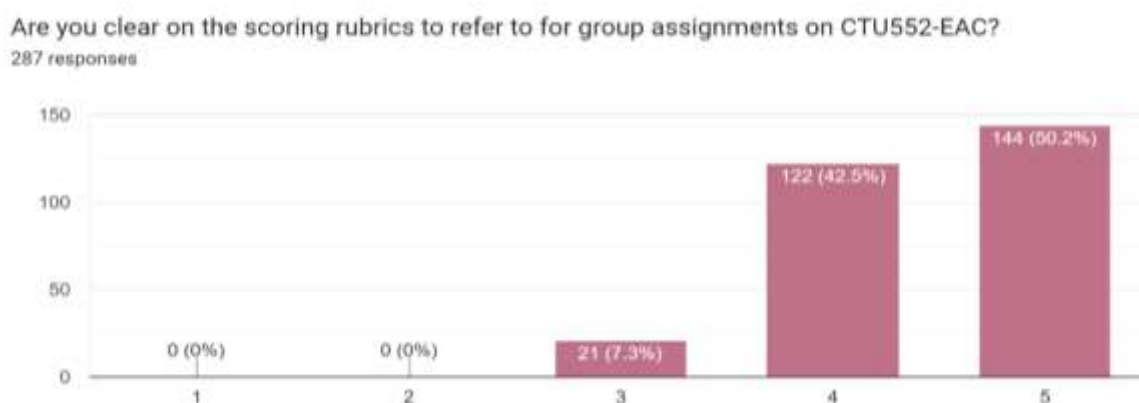


Figure 9. Students' responses about the rubric for assessments based on EAC552.

3.2.2 Guide video for assessments

Apart from the guidebook, there is a video explaining the way of completing assessments successfully. In CTU552, written required group assignment is worth 30 marks. The percentage of marks requires a high-quality assignment from student to achieve good grades. Thus, with the benefits of CTU Digital Flipbook as a guide for written assignments, the guide video will also be helping them by lowering the possibilities to make mistakes throughout the writing process. The appearance of guide video in EAC552 as follows:



Figure 10. Guide Video for assessments

From the feedback from students, most of the respondents agree and strongly agree that they understand rubric well throughout the explanation in EAC552, as illustrated in figure 11 and 12.

Do you understand the presentation scoring rubric included on CTU552-EAC?

287 responses

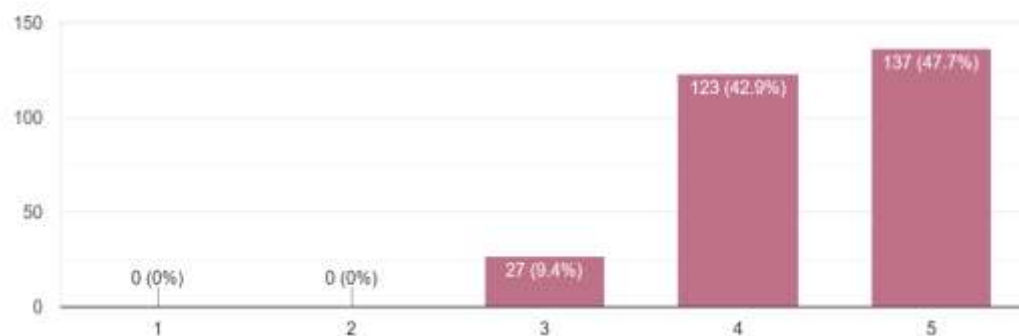


Figure 11. Students' responses about the understanding of rubric based on EAC552.

Did your lecturer explain the scoring rubric before giving the assignment to the class?

287 responses

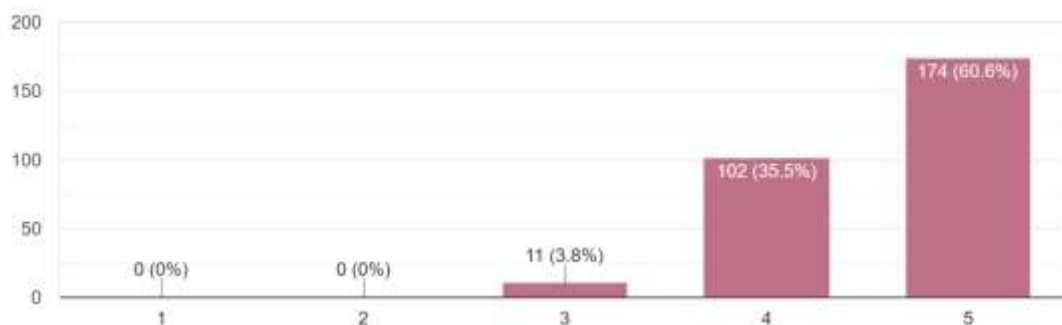


Figure 12. Students' responses about the explanation of rubric by lecturer.

4. DISCUSSION

Before developing Easy Access Center (EAC552), a simple survey through questionnaire had been distributed to the students registering course CTU552 Philosophy and Current Issues regarding their needs to the centralization of information and materials. From the survey, the findings show that students the students still need to access easily to the materials virtually. It is because of the normalization of digital medium in education environment post pandemic.

EAC552 website had been developed by some of lectures in UiTM Kampus Segamat to be used by their own students for the course. The development of EAC552 makes the process of transferring knowledge and sharing materials between lecturer and students became easier. Additionally, EAC552 also providing a proper guideline regarding assessments for the course code CTU552. The website had been used by students in UiTM Kampus Segamat since 2021 until now. Referring to the students and lecturers' needs for the CTU552 course, there will always be continuous improvement to the website.

For instance, the new feature on the website is the guideline to the students in writing assignment and preparing presentation. The guideline consists of guidebook CTU digital flipbook and guide video explaining elements in completing their assessments successfully. The development of this new feature is because of most students facing problem in scoring high marks in their assessments due to lack of continuous guidance especially during their writing phase. The new feature provided in EAC552 will encounter these problems among students because they may reach to the guidelines whenever they need them easily.

To make the website more practical and beneficial to the students, the research analyse feedback from them. A survey questionnaire was distributed to students registered in CTU552 from 2021 until semester March 2023. This research collected 287 students shows that most students agree that this website helping them in understanding more about the course, giving them latest information, and guiding them in completing assessment. Another finding of the effectiveness of the website is most student got higher marks for their assessments. Most of students understanding rubrics well and following them in completing written assignment and presentation. Lecturers also find that their students avoided plagiarism which directly decrease similarities percentage in their assignment.

5. CONCLUSION

The centralization of materials and guidelines regarding course CTU552 Philosophy and Current Issues simplifies the learning process for both lecturers and students for the course. Lecturers may share the link of EAC552 to the students in every beginning of semester so that they will always refer to the website regarding materials for the course such as syllabus, subjects' slides, videos for every chapter, revision games, past year questions and guidelines in completing assessments. From the development of EAC552 especially after the new feature consist of guidebook CTU digital flipbook and guide video, the students agree that they are guided to produce high-quality written assignments and scoring their presentation assignments. They also find that EAC552 helping them in understanding about the subject and they can easily find latest information there.

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