The Big Red Button: A media toolkit for practice-based learning in the 21st century

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The Problem
User generated digital video and audio is now a ubiquitous part of our daily lives yet it remains underused in education – especially for assessment purposes. The nature of the media itself presents problems - large files that are difficult to navigate, reference and share.

The Solution
A toolkit enabling users to identify and share extracts from online audio-video resources in the form of ‘virtual clips’. No media file is altered or copied in the process. Once a clip has been specified students and teachers can add textual annotations that are ‘pinned’ along the timeline of the virtual clips. This combination of audio-visual evidence and textual notes provides a powerful and flexible combination for assessment purposes.

Widening Participation
The Big Red Button will work on tablets, smart phones and PCs. It will be particularly useful for learners who need to capture and share authentic evidence of their knowledge and skills in workplace and community settings and submit it for assessment. It can enable more flexible and inclusive forms of assessment and provide evidence for; improving employment opportunities, meeting regulatory requirements, recording personal development and supporting career advancement.

Implications for Academic Practice
• Overcoming the limits of traditional textual and numerical information in education – in the context of assessment of practice-based learning.
• Easy to use and reliable tools for creating and sharing audio visual narratives and evidence and collaboration for analysis and evaluation
• A combination of audio-visual evidence and textual annotations provides a powerful and flexible combination for assessment purposes in practice-based learning
• Makes audio-visual information as easy to cite, reference and quote as text in academic discourse
• Transgressing the hegemony of the written word in academia...

About the Clipper Project
A collaboration between the City of Glasgow College, the Open University and ReachWill Ltd. Originally tasked with developing innovative tools for academic researchers in the sciences and arts working with time-based data, the project is now widening its remit to educational and cultural applications.