Interactive comment on "A Flexible, Open and Interactive Digital Platform to Support Online and Blended Experiential Learning Environments: Thinglink and thin sections" *by* Adam J. Jeffery et al.

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Received and published: 28 December 2020

Dear Jamie, The authors would like to express their gratitude for your rapid, detailed, and constructive review of our manuscript. We were pleased to hear that you feel this form of student learning enhancement would be beneficial during the current situation. Below, we provide individual responses to each of the general points you have raised. We then provide responses to each of the individual comments you have provided in the PDF file. Please see the revised manuscript.

1) The introduction is well written, gives the rationale, but probably a paragraph needs to be added on other virtual efforts to complement traditional teaching resources, see annotated PDF.

We have now added further information on the variety of complementary teaching resources applied to Geoscience and associated fields, including suitable references.

2) The paper aim/objectives also need to be clearer and in one place, see notes on PDF. I also note different ones are presented as discussion points (4) in the discussion, these seem clearer to me than then ones you gave in the introduction? Worth a rejig I think.

The end of the Introduction section has been re-structured to provide further clarification on the aims of the project. We have also added a sentence to the beginning of the discussion to further link our aims to the themes of the discussion. Although these to do not tally directly, we feel that the themes we have selected can now be linked to one or more of the aims of the project more easily.

3) L180-196 – you describe in the text how you generate the resource in Thinglink, I'm wondering if a summary table/workflow may be of use/interest to the reader? I think that would be more useful than Fig3 which is self-explanatory.

The authors agree that this will be useful, and our intention is to provide a more detailed account of the methods we used in a further publication. This study is intended as a proof-of-concept, which demonstrates the validity of the approach, using a prototype resource which does not necessarily reflect the full potential of a Thinglink-based resource in terms of scale.

4) For section 4 – the questionnaire results are already summarised as a multiple pie chart figure, I would try and condense the descriptive text down on this somewhat.

We acknowledge that this section was quite wordy for its content and is best shown via the summary figure and table. We have drastically reduced the overall size of this

section, as suggested.

5) In the discussion, useful to discuss the overarching themes, so may want to adjust aims to reflect these?

See response to point 2 above.

6) Conclusions are good but seems to be missing a paragraph on study limitations?

The conclusions have been updated to include direct references to the limitations of the project, as well as the steps which will be taken to address these as the project develops further.

7) Fig1 scales need to be bigger (I cant read them)

The figure scales have been adjusted as requested.

Minor comments:

Line 8: Changed as suggested

Line 35: References added as suggested

Line 46-48: This section has now been expanded to include a number of references, covering a range of methods and approaches towards virtualisation.

Line 54-56: The end of the introduction has been re-structured to provide clarification on the aims of the project, as suggested.

Line 64-67: See previous comment

Line 69-70: See previous comment.

Line 71: This has been changed to "Project Background and Context" to clarify that this entire section is intended to provide an overall background on the subject, the problem, available resources, and the Thinglink platform.

Line 85: Changed as suggested

Line 156: Changed as suggested

Line 169: Changed as suggested

Line 175-176: This sentence has been altered to reflect the authors experiences.

Line 179: Adobe and Thinglink version added as suggested.

Line 183: 'And' is correct here.

Line 188: Changed as suggested

Line 203: Reference added as suggested

Line 216: This information has now been added to this section.

Line 231: We acknowledge and accept your concerns regarding the distribution of the data. In this case, this study is intended to act as a preliminary indication of potential demand and a proof-of-concept, based on a simple prototype resource. We feel that it has been successful in this regard, and we now intend to develop and disseminate a significantly expanded resource which will provide greatly enhanced interactivity and content. Our intention is to gather more rigorous feedback from a much larger cohort, potentially expanding to external institutions with this new resource, the creation of which has been justified by this study.

Line 298-299: The aims of the study have been adjusted and a number of minor changes have been made at the beginning of the discussion to strengthen the links between the aims of the project and the themes employed in the discussion. For example, Theme 4 (Continued Resource Development) contributes directly to Aim 4.

Line 307-308: Further clarification has been added to this section on the potential costs associated with this form of support.

Line 316: Sentence now reads "...confusion with the use of both question mark and magnifying glass symbols..."

Line 348: This section has been updated to include a number of new references.

Line 364: This section heading has been changed to "Continued Resource Development" to clarify that this refers to the development of the resource itself.

Line 416: Sentence now reads "...aiming to cover the key lithologies and textures that might be required for a PMG-based course in higher or further education."