Embedding Information Literacy Skills in Online Tutorials

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Information literacy aims

- Graduate profile statement on general skills
- Effective study habits & capabilities
- Implementation of IL policy via integration into the curriculum (ANZIL standards)
- ICT is an integral part of current learning environment
Context

- Large, diverse student population -> need for flexible, personalized learning support
- Trend towards elearning as part of an effective teaching environment
- ICT /elearning strategy for staff and students
- Rise of open source and creative commons
- Contemporary approaches to academic & professional development
Project objectives

- Produce a range of interactive tutorials:
  - Easy to customize for specific assignments & integration into the curriculum
  - Align with Academic Plans and Graduate Profiles
  - Flexible, portable, task oriented & user focused
  - Use interactive multimedia within learning designs to motivate & engage students from a range of national & educational backgrounds & age groups
  - Address student support needs identified by Librarians
A collaborative approach

- Projects typically involve subject matter experts, elearning & support unit staff (i.e. librarians, web developers, learning designers, graphic designers, video / audio producers & academic developers)...

- All with agendas that are more or less explicit in the working relationship
The development process

- Concept development = long, complex process - roles, capabilities & relationships defined
- Review of existing resources, including Online Information Literacy (OIL) Modules
  - [http://oil.otago.ac.nz/oil/index.html](http://oil.otago.ac.nz/oil/index.html)
- Decision to reuse some content but develop locally (for mainly technical reasons!!)
- Coursebuilder tool – reflects collaborative & flexible principles of the tutorial development process
- Overall aim – independence & reusable skills
Now it’s up & running

- Dissemination is a major focus – initiatives often stall at this point
  - Other Librarians, teachers & learning support staff are interested now there is something to show & the concept has been tested
  - Integration with other websites & learning support resources (e.g. Library, LMS, Referen©ite etc)
- Further usability and effectiveness evaluation will be conducted
Key success factors

- Early consultation, usability testing & feedback to inform design
- Easy customization – any assignment, any subject
- Productivity gains for students and teachers
- Full integration – part of a widely used suite of elearning tools
- Sustainable skills developed by project team – who can now mentor others
Some comments

“More exercises in evaluating content [this is] one of the most important things”

“Instead of just stating that some sources are current or peer reviewed... perhaps that could be tested in an exercise to see if students really understand it”

“use of video clips was great – made the tutorial more interesting and gave a break from reading text (voice-overs very professional!). Quizzes a nice touch – people find it hard to resist seeing if they can get top marks.”
Challenges & solutions

- IP / Copyright – substituted with open access
- Time required to develop ideas to storyboard stage – more realistic estimates now possible but workload accounting may need to change
- Getting past the initial learning curve & the comfort of dependence on developers - ??? - considered worthwhile with hindsight
- Crafted professional development strategies – also integrated & almost by stealth!
Evidence of benefits

- Informal feedback that collaborative model was beneficial to all concerned
- Positive response from teachers and students
- Ideas generated by new potential users
- Positive approach to further developments by more or less the same project team
- Enhanced CourseBuilder features based on user requirements & experience
BUSINESS INFORMATION SKILLS ONLINE

http://www.flexiblelearning.auckland.ac.nz/business_information_skills
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- **5,152** Pageviews
- **3,643** Unique Views
- **28.71%** Bounce Rate

**Top Content**

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Summary

- Our attempt to address policy implementation in a number of areas
- Collaboration is the key to integration
- Reusable skills and resources are the key to sustainable elearning capacity development