



36TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INNOVATION, PRACTICE AND RESEARCH IN THE USE OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES IN TERTIARY EDUCATION

Personalised Learning. Diverse Goals. One Heart.

2 - 5 December 2019 Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS), Performing Arts Theatre



ASCILITE 2019

Australasian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education

Singapore University of Social Sciences, Singapore 2 – 5 December 2019

Conference Proceedings

Personalised Learning. Diverse Goals. One Heart.

36th International Conference of Innovation, Practice and Research in the Use of Educational Technologies in Tertiary Education

Editors:

Sharleen Chew Yi Wei, Chan Kah Mun, Alfieana Alphonso



ASCILITE 2019 – Personalised Learning. Diverse Goals. One Heart.

The ASCILITE 2019 Conference is ASCILITE's 36th International Conference of Innovation, Practice and Research in the Use of Educational Technologies in Tertiary Education. This year's conference was hosted by the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS), and held at the University's campus, between 2 to 5 December 2019.

The theme of ASCILITE 2019 "Personalised Learning. Diverse Goals. One Heart." brings together the focus on the learner's needs in the use of technology and sound pedagogical practices. It recognizes the diverse motivation behind each learner in the design of curriculum and the common goal in contributing to the betterment of the global society. Singapore, being the place for people of different ethnicity, culture and religion to pursue their passion and dreams, personifies the idea of "Diverse Goals" but "One Heart". This theme also coincides with the educational aspiration of SUSS, and Singapore at large, that regardless of students' goals, different backgrounds or life stages, it aims to equip them with the real-world knowledge and practice-oriented skills to excel, both in life and in their chosen career. Welcome to ASCILITE 2019 in the city state Singapore.

Conference Tracks

Conference submissions identifies the conceptual, applied, and theoretical research contributions on the following six conference tracks:

1. Visions and Explorations in Digital Learning, Pedagogies & Spaces

This exploratory theme encourages the sharing of new, emerging or tentative trials and experimentations of work that incorporates digital technologies into pedagogical instruction and learning, as well as learning spaces.

2. Practices and Challenges in Technology Enhanced Learning

This theme encourages contributions in the states of affairs, structures or collaborations needed, in order for technology enhanced learning to take root in a meaningful, scaled or sustainable manner. Personal reflections on obstacles, mistakes or lessons learnt in systems implementation are welcomed.

3. Nurturing Digital Competencies for Teaching, Learning, Work & Citizenship

This theme focuses on the attributes, attitudes, understandings, skills, dispositions and related digital competencies needed by educators and learners in formal and informal learning environments, including in Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs) and at the workplace.

4. Data Analytics & Evidence to Improve Teaching & Learning

This theme is for the empirical, quantitative, interpretative or impact analysis of (a) digital learning issues or (b) the use of digital interventions to illuminate issues of teaching and learning.

5. Continuing Education: Learning Enrichment Throughout Life

This theme focuses on inclusive and lifelong learning initiatives or pedagogies related to upskilling and reskilling for work, as well as in the contexts of active and productive leisure, ageing, citizenship to meet local, regional and global learning needs.

6. Technology as a Catalyst for Social Impact

This theme focuses on how technology could be used for learning to create social changes and how educators and students alike can be motivated to use technology to make a difference in the society.

Conference Organisation

The Singapore University of Social Sciences' ASCILITE 2019 Conference Organising Committee, led by Professor Cheah Horn Mun, includes Associate Professor Rebekah Lim Wei Ying, Associate Professor Chui Yoon Ping, Dr Renee Tan Hui Ling, Mr Lee Chye Seng, Ms Chan Kah Mun, Mr David Toh Tian Kheng, Ms Katherine Lin Daomin, Ms Rebekah Lim Shi Yun, Ms Choong Fong Ling, and Ms Stephanie Tiu Ting Wei.

The Conference Programme sub-committee included Dr Low Wai Ping, Dr Patrick Shi, Dr Lin Feng, Dr Vikki Bo, Dr Sharleen Chew Yi Wei, Dr Lyndon Lim, Dr Ho Yan Yin, Dr Regina Lee Wan Peng, Mr Arthur Chia, Mr Eric Lee, Mr Muhammad Firdaus, Ms Jameela Kassim, Ms Cindy Neo Poh Peng, Ms Alfieana Alphonso, Ms

Juwanita Binte Abdul Wahab, Ms Sharlene Soh En Xian, Ms Magdalene Tan Mui Ling, Ms Eve Ng Soo Cheng, Mr Chiu Lung Ting, Mr Huang Junxian, Ms Tan Peiyu Peggy, Ms Bernie Png, and Mr Tian Zhiyuan.

Review Process

Full papers, Concise papers, Extended Abstracts (PechaKucha), and Posters submitted for the conference underwent a double-blind peer review process. A third blind peer review was conducted if opinions between the two reviewers was divided. This process allowed papers to be ranked and selected for inclusion in the conference. A further review was conducted by the ASCILITE 2019 Academic sub-committee for papers just above and below the anticipated cut line.

Panel discussion, Symposia, Debates, Experimental sessions, and Pre-Conference Workshop submissions underwent a single-blind peer reivew. Proposals that were at the cut-off line were also examined by the ASCILITE 2019 Academic sub-committee.

A total of 199 submissions were received for the 2019 conference, and all were either blind peer reviewed or double-blind peer reviewed. A further 13 non-peer reviewed submissions were added to the programme. The EasyChair Conference Management System was used for the submission and review process, for papers across the six conference themes.

Table 1: Summary of paper submissions and accepatances for ASCILITE 2019

Type	Submitted	Accepted	Rejected	Withdrawn
Double blind peer review				
Full paper	45	35	9	1
Concise paper	74	54	19	1
Poster	26	20	6	0
PechaKucha	32	23	8	1
Sub-total	177	132	42	3
Blind peer review				
Panels/ Symposia	5	5	0	0
Debates	2	1	1	0
Experimental sessions	9	7	1	1
Pre-Conference Workshops	6	5	0	1
Sub-total	22	18	2	2
Grand total (reviewed)	199	150	44	5
Non-Peer Review				
Keynotes	3	3	0	0
AJET sessions	2	2	0	0
SIG sessions	7	6	0	1
TELAS session	1	1	0	0
Innovation award presentations	1	1	0	0
Sub-total (non-reviewed)	14	13	0	1
Grand total (all)	213	163	44	6

Acknowledgements

The ASCILITE 2019 Conference Organising Committee would like to acknowledge and thank the ASCILITE Executive for their guidance and support, ensuring that this conference ran successfully. In particular, we would like to thank the ASCILITE President, Professor Dominique Parrish, Vice-President Dr Chris Campbell, Secretariat Mr Andre Colbert, Professor Sue Gregory, Mrs Hazel Jones, Dr Julie Willems, and our Executive member liaison, Mr Alan Soong.

List of Reviewers

The ASCILITE 2019 Conference Organising Committee and Conference Academic sub-committee wish to gratefully acknowledge the efforts of the international body of reviewers for contributions to ASCILITE 2019. Their work in reading and reviewing the 199 submissions was greatly appreciated

Elizabeth Mccarthy Victoria University, Australia

Yvonne Wisbey Independent

Chris Campbell Griffith University, Australia

Zihan Zhou Singapore University of Social Sciences, Singapore Joel Gn Singapore University of Social Sciences, Singapore

Suneeti Rekhari RMIT University, Australia

Sharon Altena Queensland University of Technology, Australia

Sandy Barker University of South Australia, Australia Leanne Cameron James Cook University, Australia

Michael Cowling CQUniversity, Australia

Tracy Douglas University of Tasmania, Australia

Douglas Eacersall University of Southern Queensland, Australia John P Egan The University of Auckland, New Zealand

Gloria Gomez Oceanbrowser Ltd., New Zealand
Elaine Huber The University of Sydney, Australia
Lisa Jacka Southern Cross University, Australia

Peerumporn Jiranantanagorn Rajamangala University of Technology Rattanakosin, Thailand

Hazel Jones Griffith University, Australia

Vitomir Kovanovic The University of South Australia, Australia Samantha Newell The University of Adelaide, Australia Leonie Sherwin University of New England, Australia

Chue Shien Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Jhee Yoon Sook The University of Melbourne, Australia

Linda Ward Technical And Further Education New South Wales, Australia

Juliet Aleta

University of Southern Queensland, Australia and

University of the Philippines Open University, Philippines

Diana Andone Politehnica University of Timisoara, Romania

James Birt Bond University, Australia Malcolm Campbell Deakin University, Australia

Ong Catherine
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
Yi Wei Chew
Singapore University of Social Sciences, Singapore
Siew Hoong Chow
Singapore University of Social Sciences, Singapore
Thomas Cochrane
Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand

Amelia Dowe
Vebica Evans
University of Tasmania, Australia
The University of Melbourne, Australia
University of New England, Australia
Marcus Harmes
University of Southern Queensland, Australia
Yan Yin Ho
Singapore University of Social Sciences, Singapore

Mahen Jayawardena Deakin University, Australia

Martin Jenkins Coventry University, United Kingdom

Meena Jha CQUniversity, Australia

Carol Johnson The University of Melbourne, Australia Shazia K. Jan Macquarie University, Australia Kavita Kaur Deakin University, Australia

Suresh Krishnasamy Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Richard Lander-Clarke Australian National University, Australia

Mary Lawson Deakin University, Australia

Lyndon Lim Singapore University of Social Sciences, Singapore

Danny Y.T. Liu The University of Sydney, Australia

Stephen Marshall Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

Victoria I. Marín University of Oldenburg, Germany

Larry Mcnutt Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, Ireland Kristy Newton University of Wollongong Library, Australia Rebecca Ng Australia National University, Australia

Matipa Ngandu Walter Sisulu University, South Africa

Patrick O'Shea Immersive Learning Research Network, United States of America

Zhengqi Pan Singapore University of Social Sciences, Singapore

Sharon Pittaway Deakin University, Australia

Trisha Poole University of Southern Queensland, Australia

Greg Preston Newcastle University, Australia

Michael Roberts Technical And Further Education Digital New South Wales, Australia

Michael Sankey Griffith University, Australia
Lenandlar Singh University of Guyana, Guyana
Lucia Stejer Kaplan Professional, Australia
Darci Taylor Deakin University, Australia

Gemma Tur University of the Balearic Islands, Spain
Amanda White University of Technology Sydney, Australia
Amy Wong Ooi Mei Singapore University of Social Sciences, Singapore

Sakinah Alhadad Griffith University, Australia
William Ashraf Macquaire University, Australia
Helen Bound Institute for Adult Learning, Singapore
Alison Casey The University of Notre Dame, Australia
Kwang Cham The University of Melbourne, Australia
Elizabeth Cook Edith Cowan University, Australia

Linda Corrin Swinburne University of Technology, Australia

Barney Dalgarno Charles Stuart University, Australia Kashmira Dave Charles Darwin University, Australia

Hui Ting Evelyn Gay Singapore University of Social Sciences, Singapore

Cedomir Chad Gladovic Holmesglen Institute, Australia

Paul Gruba The University of Melbourne, Australia

Huong Ha Singapore University of Social Sciences, Singapore

Kenneth Howah

Central Queensland University, Australia

Henk Huijser

Queensland University of Technology, Australia

Dirk Ifenthaler University of Mannheim, Germany Pedro Isaias The University of Queensland, Australia

Rae Jobst Griffith University, Australia

Prasart Jongjaroenkamol Singapore Management University, Singapore

Elaine Khoo University of Waikato, New Zealand
Lee Kooi Cheng National University of Singapore, Singapore

David Kwok Republic Polytechnic, Singapore

Irene Wai Leng Lee The University of Western Australia, Australia Steve Leichtweis The University of Auckland, New Zealand

Joanne Yong-Kwan Lim
Wei Ying Rebekah Lim
Singapore University of Social Sciences, Singapore
Feng Lin
Singapore University of Social Sciences, Singapore
Singapore University of Social Sciences, Singapore
University of Southern Queensland, Australia

Lorraine Marshalsey Griffith University, Australia

Rosina Merry Te Rito Maioha Early Childhood New Zealand, New Zealand

Diego Miguel-Revilla University of Valladolid, Spain Adon Moskal Otago Polytechnic, New Zealand

Vickel Narayan Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand

Puvaneswari P Arumugam
Robyn Philip
Pinders University, Australia
Pinders University, Australia
Pinders University, Australia
Lincoln University, New Zealand
Peter Rutherford
The University of Queensland, Australia
Mark Schier
Alan Soong
National University of Singapore, Singapore
Marko Teras
Tampere University of Applied Sciences, Finland

Peter Westcott Independent

Penny Wheeler Macquarie University, Australia

Weipeng Yang Singapore University of Social Sciences, Singapore Fang Zheng Singapore University of Social Sciences, Singapore University of Social Sciences, Singapore

Abu Shakil Ahmed Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Hungary

Sandra Beach The University of Queensland, Australia

Zan Chen Institute for Adult Learning, Singapore Katie Freund Australian National University, Australia

Inna Geoghegan Independent

Feifei Han Griffith University, Australia

Bruce Johnstone University of London, United Kingdom
Oriel Kelly New Zealand Tertiary College, New Zealand
Helen Ko Singapore University of Social Sciences, Singapore

Clare Lloyd University of Newcastle, Australia

Kulari Lokuge Monash College, Australia
Sheryl Maher RMIT University, Australia
Jasvir Kaur Nachatar Singh La Trobe University, Australia

Hyacinth Steele Queensland University of Technology, Australia

Vanessa Todd Macquarie University, Australia Holly Tootell University of Wollongong, Australia

Foreword

Whenever significant technological advances are made that have the potential for use in teaching and learning, the imagery of the human educator being replaced by one form of technology or another would inevitably make its appearance. While this 'replacement' has not quite taken roots, the role of the educator has certainly evolved as each introduction of relevant technology nudges and re-shapes teaching and learning practices. In fact, the response of the educator to effectively embrace available technologies represents one of the key challenges, and dare I say, 'joy', in our endeavours to make learning meaningful and integral to each learner.



If we cast our minds back to the impact technologies have on education, from the use of paper to the introduction of computing machines, it is not too difficult to recognise how each major adoption has significantly changed the way in which we interact and learn. However, the spread of these changes tended to be slow; that is, until the emergence of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) redefines what pace of change means. Specifically, over a short period of time from the early 90s to the present, there are at least three recognisable paradigmatic shifts. First, the easy availability of information provided through the Internet largely means that the educator no longer has a monopoly on factual knowledge. In fact, the individual educator simply cannot compete with knowledge repositories embedded within technology and human networks made accessible through the Internet. Second, the interactivities brought about through Web 2.0 have shifted the interactions from between human and machine, to human and human through a machine. This has greatly increased the ability of the individual to connect with others beyond the space limited by geography. The impact on the way teaching and learning interactions need to be re-designed is palpable. Third, and perhaps the most challenging to date, is that the machines are now capable of learning about the learners, and through such knowledge can potentially customise learning at the individual level. The possibilities opened up by this capability is still under-explored. Within it lurks considerable dangers, and yet also tremendous possibilities that can definitively change teaching and learning interactions.

The theme of this conference recognises these possibilities, and also that it is not just about the use of technology in education. The social dimensions and impact of using technologies in teaching and learning are important aspects that need to be taken into account as we explore and deepen how technologies can support this most human of endeavours – learning.

On this sober and exhilarating note, welcome!

Professor Cheah Horn Mun

Chairperson, ASCILITE 2019 Conference Organising Committee Assistant Provost and Dean (S R Nathan School of Human Development) Singapore University of Social Sciences

ASCILITE 2019 Singapore University of Social Sciences

Keynote Speakers

Emeritus Professor Mike Sharples

Emeritus Professor of Educational Technology Institute of Educational Technology, The Open University, UK

Mike Sharples is Emeritus Professor of Educational Technology in the Institute of Educational Technology at The Open University, UK and Honorary Visiting Professor at the Centre for Innovation in Higher Education, Anglia Ruskin University. His research involves human-centred design of new technologies and environments for learning. He inaugurated the mLearn conference series and was Founding President of the International Association for Mobile Learning. As Academic Lead for the FutureLearn company, he informed the design of its social learning approach. He leads the nQuire project with the BBC to develop a new platform for inquiry-led learning at scale. He founded the Innovating Pedagogy report series and is author of over 300 papers in the areas of educational technology, science education, human-centred design of personal technologies, artificial intelligence and cognitive science.





Professor Sandy Cook Senior Associate Dean, Duke-NUS Medical School

Dr Sandy Cook received her PhD from Cornell University in Adult and Continuing Education. Her Master's is in Research Methodology and her Bachelor's in Experimental Psychology, both from Ohio State University. Prior to coming to Singapore, she was the Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs at University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Medicine. Dr. Cook joined Duke-NUS Medical School in June 2006, to facilitate the design and implementation of the Educational infrastructure for Duke-NUS Medical school. She facilitated the development of TeamLEAD, the local adaptation of Team-based Learning as the primary instructional strategy for Duke-NUS basic science year. She helped establish the Academic Medicine Education Institute (AM.EI) launched in 2012. AM.EI is a joint venture with Duke-NUS and SingHealth, designed to promote excellence in education for Health Professional Educators. Through AM.EI, she has taught hundreds of faculty from all levels of learning how to use TeamLEAD in their instructional programmes. In 2014, she was accepted into the NUS Teaching Academy Fellows and received the Master Scholar Award from the International Association of Medical Science Educators (IAMSE) in 2016. She is currently the Deputy Head of Office Education and Deputy Director of AM.EI.

Professor Koh Hian Chye

Professor and Director, Business Intelligence & Analytics, Singapore University of Social Sciences

Dr Koh Hian Chye is currently a Professor at the Singapore University of Social Sciences. He serves concurrently as Director of Business Intelligence & Analytics, which is responsible for the implementation of learning analytics in the University, among other things. He has more than thirty years of experience in data analysis and data mining, having served as a statistical/data mining consultant to SMEs, statutory boards, government agencies and large organisations. He has published in international journals and presented at international conferences in various areas in analytics. His main research and teaching interests are in data mining applications in business and education.



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Integrating digital literacies through blended learning in a first-year undergraduate course

Bettina Schwenger

The University of Auckland New Zealand

The use of digital learning in New Zealand's tertiary and higher education opens up new opportunities but simultaneously raises concerns about students' digital literacies. In collaboration with two teachers, the researcher responded to digital information literacy demands in relation to the students' capabilities. The paper considers how integrated online resources were used to develop students' digital information literacy (DIL) in a first-year undergraduate course in Education and to enhance the blended learning in the course. Educational Design Research with three research phases as methodological approach supported the collaboration. Research instruments with students included questionnaires and focus groups; staff shared their experiences through interviews, meetings, emails and reflections.

Keywords: blended learning, digital literacies development, first year undergraduate study.

Situating DIL and blended learning in tertiary and higher education

As New Zealand tertiary institutions increasingly offer online learning in face-to-face courses (blended learning), one of the purposes of the research was to find out how to harness digital affordances for a blended learning design that encourages digital information literacy (DIL) development. With growing diversity and larger numbers of enrolled students in classes, online learning can open up possibilities to enhance students' learning (Mendieta Aguilar, 2015). However, the way blended learning (BL) is designed impacts on the implementation of learning and teaching and on the student experience. Although discipline-specific literacies development is essential for all tertiary students (Feekery, 2013; Gunn, 2013), little research exists about literacies development to address undergraduate course demands with blended learning. This study responded to the research gap.

With the growth of online learning, in general, there is a move towards independent study (Hughes, 2006). It implies that students now even more than before need to find and use digital information independently and critically as Lavoie, Rosman and Sharma (2011) point out. This research investigated how literacy development can be integrated to enhance students BL experience (Bernard et al., 2009; Gunn, 2013) by moving from posting information to include active learning online. Aspects relevant in tertiary learning and teaching were considered, including how teachers design for and integrate online with face-to-face learning and DIL development for studies and work (Schwenger, 2016a; Schwenger, 2016b). Students need to, for example, interpret and judge sources to then produce new information. They have to be aware of key information resources, identify the need for information, plan and search for appropriate sources, critically evaluate, organise, produce and present information (Gosling & Nix, 2011). As students engage with online information, digital information literacy (DIL) has become a standard demand (Hegarty et al., 2010; Hughes, 2006). This research understands DIL as one of six digital capabilities as defined by JISC, shown in figure 1 (2018), such as literacies, learning development, creating, problem solving, communication and collaboration. The JISC model recognises the interconnected nature of broader areas combined by an overarching focus on identity and wellbeing.

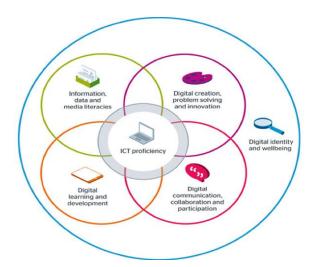


Figure 1: Six elements of digital capabilities (JISC, 2018).

As digital information literacy (DIL) demands always emerge from a certain situation (Whitworth, Fishwick and McIndee, 2011), they result in a "socially situated set of meaning making practices" (Gourlay, 2009, p. 182). In this study, literacies development for students of Early Childhood Education is conceptualised as part of an explicit, situated experience that is integral for the learning process (Bent, 2013; Feekery, 2013; Secker & Coonan, 2013). It is based on the understanding that students new to tertiary study are in general unfamiliar with its standards and requirements (Cope and Kalantzis, 2010).

Background

The paper reports on one part of a doctoral study which investigated during 2016 how to design blended learning with digital information literacy (DIL) to support students' assessment in a first-year undergraduate course. The research questions relevant for this paper was "How can teachers approach BL for undergraduate students to develop DIL?". Learning support staff had identified that these students often presented with limited digital information literacy at the institutional learning centre when preparing assessments. The online resources addressed the quality and completion of the course assessment, an ePortfolio. The Bachelor of Teaching (ECE, Early Childhood Education) is offered at a New Zealand polytechnic and attracts a mix of students, including Māori, Pacific Islanders and Pākehā as the largest ethnic groups. The ages range from 17 to over 40 years old with many older students, often first-time and first-in-family to participate in formal tertiary education. The teachers involved in the research wanted to support their students with the institutional direction of offering more blended learning with increased online learning. The wider project team included library staff, Māori colleagues and ECE colleagues.

Research approach

Educational Design Research (EDR) invites iterative development with a phased, structured and reflective approach, is theory informed and aims at designing real-life interventions (Plomp, 2013). The research was conducted through a three phase model, informed by Plomp (2013) and included preliminary research, development and evaluation phase (Figure 2). Thirteen students and two teachers participated in the study during 2016. Students shared their thoughts through initial and final questionnaires and initial foci groups; teachers through initial questionnaire and interview, reflective prompts, emails and a final interview.

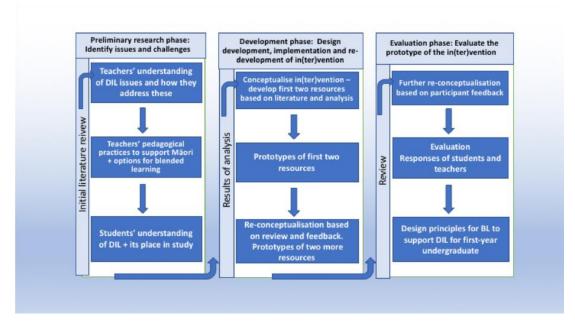


Figure 2: Overview of the three research phases in this study.

Students' DIL practices and assessment demands

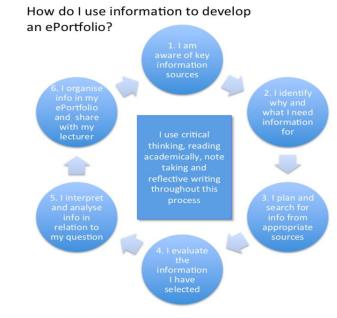
The teachers reported that patterns from previous cohorts showed challenges related to the assessment such as inadequate literature. Teachers added after the research had started that many students seemed to consume information instead of adding new insights to existing knowledge. Findings from questionnaires and focus groups indicated that students struggled with evaluating, analyzing and synthesizing to create new information effectively in a digital learning space. Current research, for example by Gosling and Nix (2011), advises connecting any DIL development with the course content and particularly the assessment.

Discussion of findings

Embedding students' DIL through blended learning

Digital learning outcomes had been included in the course prior to the research as well as in Year 2 and 3 courses and provided an opportunity to address the DIL challenges of the ePortfolio assessment through integrating or embedding DIL. After I identified the DIL practices required for successful assessment and the teachers confirmed these, the online affordances of digital tools were considered to then design the student resources with practice and reflection opportunities. The resources were designed to encourage active learning by offering feedback and reflective questions with a focus on what students need to do to achieve the desired learning goals.

The content chosen for the DIL resources was based on the gap between the assessment demands and students' competencies. An initial literature review and first findings from students and conversations with ECE staff informed the first resource, the process of *How do I use information to develop my ePortfolio?* (Figure 3). The process underpins the portfolio compilation but had not been made explicit to students in the past. The process is non-linear and students might go through several iterations of certain actions. There are several occasions of evaluation, for example, students have to evaluate the sources and evaluate if the gained information is helpful to answer the query that underpins the assessment task in the ePortfolio.



Informed by Gosling & Nix (2011) and conversations with ECE staff (2016)

Figure 3: Process of using information for learning.

The first resource provided the information about the process and the actions required by the students combined with reflective questions to consider how to apply the information-handling practices and for what purpose. In the second resource, an ECE scenario with a Moodle Lesson, students could step through the actions to create an entry in their ePortfolio. They had to decide on an aspect related to each action and received feedback; in this way they could apply the complete process. A third and a fourth online resource were equally based on the process and included a quiz and an one-page overview with reflective pop-up questions and automated feedback. Combining these online resources effectively during the semester with the face-to-face learning and teaching emerged as one of the challenges for the teachers (Schwenger, 2017a; Schwenger, 2017b), however, the issues related to the blended learning design cannot be discussed further, due to the length of this article.

In the following, I discuss two areas of DIL challenges that have been important findings in the study.

Students' DIL challenges

Most students in the study seemed to plan and find information via the Internet and went to Google Search as their primary choice but did not mention difficulties in finding appropriate quality literature. Their preferences aligned with how Coonan (2011) describes students' behaviour to often first access the "unordered, unverified, [...] and seductively easy to use" (p. 12) Internet instead of the library, the "cloistered garden of authorative, trustworthy sources carefully selected for their academic integrity" (Coonan, 2011, p. 12). Badke (2010) points out the required information might be outside the library catalogue. Whatever the exact reasons may be, students seemed more interested in finding the required information than in considering the tools for their search processes. The process and the resources therefore highlighted the importance of understanding the key sources and what information is needed as initial areas of work, based on the lack of quality literature as a key concern identified by the teachers.

Compared with the range of ideas of how students organised information in hard copy or digital, the students did not mention how they evaluate information. This seemed to indicate that they know less about strategies for evaluating as argued by Coonan (2011) and Feekery (2013). As a result of a gap in the existing library resources in terms of developing higher level practices of information handling such as evaluation and analysis, the resources considered how to scaffold students into these higher order functions of information handling. In a limited way, the resources aimed to contribute to this area by including the actions explicitly in the process and in the scenario. Questions were included for students to self-assess and reflect on the required actions, for example when paraphrasing the work of others. More needs to be done, though, to ensure students have the opportunity to improve these higher order functions of information handling in their courses. This raises the question of who is

responsible for working with students so that they can enhance their DIL as they progress in the studies. Tertiary and higher education institutions have to work with their existing students, rather than the students we wish to have

Contribution and limitations of the study

Although this article does not report the evaluation of the study, in the following some of the formative and summative feedback received are outlined. Teachers appreciated the explicitness of the resources and felt that connecting development with the assessment supported students' assessment success. The teachers reported anecdotal feedback from six students in the first semester who found the tools helpful. Feedback given on four ePortfolio assessments to students at the end of semester 1 showed a positive development in the use of literature in the ePortfolios. Feedback from seven students in a questionnaire at the end of the year indicated that the resources had been useful for their independent study, to develop the necessary actions of the process and successfully prepare the ePortfolio. The teachers confirmed several times explicitly how they valued the integrated online resources to foster students DIL capabilities. At the start of Semester 2, Teacher A reported that the literature in the assignments of the February intake in Semester 1 was of better quality. DIL was more explicitly discussed in the classroom in the first semester, including the introduction of the online resources, and it might have made students more aware of the importance to find quality information.

I recognize that the findings from students, in particular, are limited which is partially due to the small number of participants in each semester. The findings are from a particular situation; however, they can inform learning designers and teachers thinking about what influences learning design and what type of blended learning design can foster digital information literacy and support students' study success. It was an authentic experience, though, in a time of ongoing institutional change. The study contributed to our understanding of the complexity of change initiatives and collaboration and it touched on bigger issues related to digital literacies development that can be expected to surface similarly in other contexts.

Conclusion

The study was based on a holistic approach that recognises DIL development goes beyond skills to include attitudes, practices and behaviour and higher-order information handling practices. The students in the course benefited from DIL development to create new information for their ePortfolio assessment and add to knowledge rather than consuming information, which aligns with findings by Kennedy and Fox (2013). Although the study only seems to have scratched the surface of how students develop DIL through blended learning, it has identified that further work is required to find out more about developing students' digital information literacy effectively throughout their studies. Further work is needed to identify, for example, which areas to develop in the various years of study to staircase students' progression in DIL, who is responsible for developing literacies and how to combine online with face-to-face learning more strongly.

The DIL online resources, through their alignment with assessment demands, have supported the interconnectedness of learning and using information as described by Maybee, Bruce, Lupton, and Pang (2018). To develop DIL, generic one-off workshops, checklists for searching databases on the library website or bibliographic instruction might continue to be part of an institutional solution. Such stand-alone measures can fail, though, to actively engage students and are unlikely to address study specific DIL capabilities. The study findings highlight that integrating DIL within the content and assessment of a blended learning course can provide a vehicle to address DIL study challenges for all students. Furthermore, the study has shown that blended learning with increased online learning can offer new active learning opportunities to foster students' DIL situated in their field of study and at the same time is likely to enhance students' blended learning experience.

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