

Online Information Literacy

Official newsletter of the Online Information Literacy Modules Project. No. 1, March, 2007
eCDF funded 2-year collaborative project between the University of Otago, Otago Polytechnic and
Dunedin College of Education.
<http://oil.otago.ac.nz>

Three new modules to be released for trial in March.

Skills-based information literacy modules on Ethics, Searching, and Evaluating Information Sources will be ready for real-use trials from 19th March 2007. These three modules will add to the five modules already available for teachers across the NZ tertiary sector to use, or download and edit, as they wish.

Essay writing with readings, annotated bibliography, business report, science report and NZ information sources are the titles of the five modules presently available online. Each of these modules was produced during the first year of this project and they have been designed to address information literacy from the perspective of students who need to complete authentic student tasks.

The skills-based modules we are producing this year will re-use some of the material from the authentic task-based modules and be available as both ready reference sources and as self-paced study guides for developing specific information literacy skills.

Packaged versions (SCORM and HTML) of all finalised modules are available for downloading, editing and reuse, under a creative commons licence. You can find out more at <http://oil.otago.ac.nz/oil/index/Resources-and-materials.html> and click on the module you want to download.

Online Editor demonstrated at ASCILITE 06

Bronwyn Hegarty, Dawn Coburn and Jenny McDonald ran a half-day workshop at the ASCILITE conference in December on the Information Literacy project with a particular focus on the use of our online editor. The online editor is designed to make editing or customising any of the online information literacy modules easy for non-technical users.

The online editor is based on an open-source content management system called Magnolia and we expect to release a demonstrator version of the editor by the end of the project in July. Whether we continue to do further work on the system for the OIL project will very much depend on feedback we receive from users.

If you would like to try out the online editor or take part in our research study evaluating the use of the editor please contact Bronwyn at bronwynh@tekotago.ac.nz

Presentation at the University of Auckland

Rosalind Andrew (Reference Librarian, Central Library, University of Otago) and Gillian Elliot (Remote Services Librarian, University of Otago) were invited to AUT to talk to

interested librarians about the project last year. A number of folk attended from CONZUL, AUT and the University of Auckland.

We received useful feedback as a result of this meeting and there was considerable interest in the reusability and portability of the Online Information Literacy modules.

Changes in our team.

The merger of the Dunedin College of Education and the University of Otago on the 1st January 2007 will mean some changes to the Online Information Literacy project for 2007. Dunedin College of Education brought a valuable perspective to our project and while this will doubtless continue with many of the original staff still working on the team, we would like to acknowledge in this newsletter the very special culture and spirit of the old College.

There are also some staff changes on the project this year. Philip van Zijl resigned his position at the Bill Robertson to take up a new position at the Taupo Library. We wish Philip and his family all the very best for their new life in Taupo.

Looking for external reviewers

We are looking for two external reviewers to review modules produced during the 2006/07 year of the project. One reviewer should look at the modules from the perspective of the ANZIIL standards and the other from the perspective of international interoperability standards, in particular the SCORM.

If you feel you have the necessary experience to provide a constructive critical review in either of these areas please e-mail jenny.mcdonald@stonebow.otago.ac.nz explaining why you would like to be a reviewer and attach a brief CV, by Monday 16th April 2007. A modest honorarium is payable to the successful reviewers.

Constructive criticism welcome.

Evaluation of the project is dependent on comments and feedback from teachers and students, particularly from colleagues in the NZ tertiary sector. You can either use the online survey at:

<http://polybase.tekotago.ac.nz/StaffSurveys/TakeSurvey.asp?SurveyID=14M3o6KM2o9KG> or if you prefer e-mail Sandra Elias at SANDRAE@tekotago.ac.nz