

ECU Library Learning 2.0: Six Months On

Learning 2.0@ECU was professional development news in the September 2007 issue of *inCite*, and gave an account of Edith Cowan University (ECU) Library's experience using the Learning 2.0 program developed by the Public Library of the Charlotte & Mecklenburg County (PLCMC) — see <<http://plcmclearning.blogspot.com/>>.

After favourable comments from the pilot group, the library extended this program to the rest of the staff and this group continues to work through the exercises. Staff were invited to share how this experience has impacted on them both personally and professionally. They chose to comment under their blog identities as follows:

Before our Web 2.0 project started, I believed I was up to date on web technologies but I was proved wrong as I came across sites I'd never tried before such as digg, technorati and del.icio.us. Some of these websites I have kept up with or delved into some new ones.

I keep up with Bloglines to track the interesting blogs I found during the project. The main site I have kept up with is Facebook, which didn't appeal to me at first but it is a great way to find old friends and it can be used as a professional networking tool.

web wiz

The really powerful learning experience for me has come from sharing the knowledge of Web 2.0 technologies with those outside the library profession, such our academic staff and instructional designers ... it's fortunate that there have been a number of Perth professional development events, and speakers such as Jimmy Wales and Stephen Abrams visiting.

In my everyday work I have embedded some of the new technologies and am now sharing del.icio.us bookmarks with colleagues. I haven't persisted with Bloglines but have continued blogging to address the group of our library staff working through Learning 2.0 now. I have started using Firefox and use that as my main point for receiving RSS feeds. I'm following a lot more RSS feeds now, including the Learning 2.1.

JayGee

It is so exciting seeing all the new technologies and the opportunity is all there to check them out and exploit them ... wish I had enough time! The pilot was great as it forced me to experiment and check out. [I would like to see my team] pick up on some ideas such as:

- *A Wiki for the guides perhaps and a blog for students to get to the team. Certainly include in information literacy (IL) sessions wherever appropriate and relevant e.g. value of RSS feeds.*
- *Since we are doing Camtasia clips for our IL areas I'd like the team to convert some to YouTube and hence widen the options and cater for the various groups.*
- *Use the appropriate technologies for quick assignment type needs and feed into the relevant unit on Blackboard as linking/access is almost seamless with these technologies.*
- *For the Library as a whole I think we should look at creating relevant/appropriate/targeted del.icio.us bookmarks for Reference 'Desk' use.*
- *Perhaps also pick up on the suggestion of a reference wiki for assignment/difficult queries ... perhaps either a blog or wiki or maybe del.icio.us to pull together all information on Edith Cowan the person if there is sufficient material out there.*

nap

I found completing the 23 things program was enlightening, as I hadn't tried all of the technologies examined during the course — I'd heard of most of them, just not used them. It has allowed me the time to experiment with websites such as Flickr, del.icio.us, Second Life, and also to spend more time blogging. One of the biggest benefits was having colleagues with whom I could discuss, and ask questions about, 'the lesson for the week'.

I have continued to use Flickr to share photos. I have used a blog as a primary means of communication with a project group of approximately 100 stakeholders. I have started to transfer my bookmarks to del.icio.us. I also belong to a few software users groups, and several of these are

setting up wikis as repositories for hints and tips for other users. After doing 23 things, I am better able to participate in these projects.

Lisa

I have set up a personalized web page through yourminis.com which gives you a single place to put all your feeds, widgets etc. Occasionally I use del.icio.us when looking for good web sites on a particular subject, and I frequently visit YouTube to view videos and Wikipedia if I want an overview of an area I am interested in. I also assist fellow staff members who are working their way through the Learning 2.0 program when the need arises.

rsblg

The Learning 2.0 program was a great introduction to Web 2.0 technologies, as it made one focus on the various technologies. Blogging is a great way to share information and I enjoy being able to communicate with people from around the world. As a tool for keeping abreast of what is happening in library land, it is ideal. I am currently investigating track-back ping URLs which allow sites to communicate about related resources. This will make the blog experience more powerful.

In terms of developing a library presence, we need to assess what will be cost

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ALIA Education & Workforce Summit 2008

When: Friday March 28 2008

Where: State Library of Victoria

The Education and Professional Development Standing Committee is planning a summit to consider the critical issues in education for the profession and the many factors confronting the future of library and information workplaces. It will bring together identified stakeholders, including educators and employers, to develop strategies that will encourage the recruitment to and retention in the profession of sufficient suitably knowledgeable and highly skilled individuals able to meet the information needs and expectations of 21st century clients. For more information contact enquiry@alia.org.au

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effective in terms of resources and usage. A small group is currently planning a Library Blog for library news. This venture meets the criteria of being resource efficient and provides the additional benefit of providing interactive feedback on the news from our staff and students. Another team is working on FAQs providing instructions for search alerts and RSS feeds from the various library databases.

My team is considering producing a flickr or zoomr photographic tour with audio and a video enhanced Podcast to help orient students and staff whose courses are moving to a new campus next year. Some of our academic staff would like blogs to alert students to resources where they are studying online or offshore.

There is no end to things we could investigate, if only we had the time. The professional development aspects of YouTube and reading other librarians' blogs is endless.

Elle

I have continued to visit Second life with my avatar Eewee. I have also borrowed a book from the library there to glean some hints about from that.

When I was trying to show new participants what Web.2.0 was all about, I thought Facebook a good example and have not looked back. It is a great way to keep in touch with family and has given me a great connection to the much younger crowd at ECU.

Klickety

The 23 Things program was a discovery exercise for individual staff members from various levels and sections within the library. As such there are similarities and diversity reflected in the above comments. As with any new development, time is a key issue, both in terms of the lack of time needed to get started and also in the time needed to assess where development may take place as there are so many appealing options to choose from. The beauty of these

technologies is that they are generally time efficient and enriching once you understand a few basic concepts.

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ALIA Online Communication Guidelines

The ALIA Board of Directors endorsed the revised Online Communication Guidelines at the Board meeting in August 2007.

Please read these new guidelines at <http://www.alia.org.au/alianet/e-lists/guide.html>. If you have any queries concerning these guidelines, please contact Robyn Ellard at ALIA National Office <robyn.ellard@alia.org.au>.

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