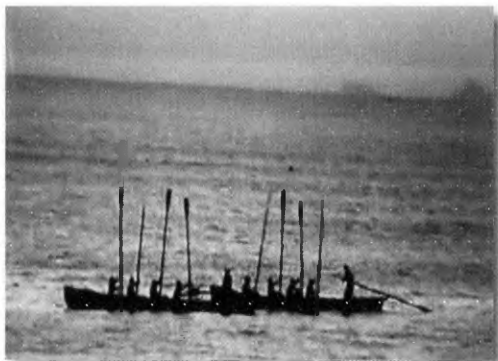


The Audacity of it all!!!

A terrific freely available software program for creating and editing audio clips is taking the world by storm!!! It's popping up everywhere! I recently had the opportunity to use this product to create a Library Orientation CD-ROM presentation for distribution to Distance Education students. I wanted to give these offsite students some support, taking into consideration that broadband width can be limited in rural regions, and that literacy levels amongst this group of students varies, as can their English speaking ability. Incorporating the use of voice into my presentation proved to be the perfect solution. I was able to limit the amount of text involved to a few summary bullet points with more in-depth explanation provided by audio. The students simply had to sit back and listen. Their response was very positive.

Sunshine Coast TAFE (SCIT) library now intends to incorporate voice into a suite of online Library presentations accessible via our library webpage. This will include an Orientation session, Information Literacy session and a Computer Skills session. Traditionally these sessions are offered in-person onsite. This alternative formatting will address the increasing trend towards e-learning; allowing students to view the sessions at their leisure, repeatedly if need be. Again, it will cater for students with literacy issues and English as a Second Language (ESL) students. We are also involved in assisting teachers to create online courses, encouraging them to bring their online delivery to life with the use of voice.

Audacity is turning up in unexpected places. This Anzac Day, I attended a dawn service at Mooloolaba Surf Life Saving Club, overlooking the beach. During the wreath laying ceremony commemorating various conflicts, the introduction to each was accompanied by music from its particular time period; all pre-recorded using Audacity. It was very effective and moving.



*Anzac Day Surf Life Saving Tribute
- Mooloolaba Beach*

If you're interested in giving Audacity a test run, a very simple, easy to follow guide by Michael Abulencia is available at http://www.flexiblelearning.net.au/flx/webdav/site/flxsite/shared/Networks/podcasting_guide.pdf All you need is a microphone (headsets work great), a computer and the Audacity to try it.

Go on - get talking!!

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