



Distance Education Association of New Zealand
Te Hunga Tatai i te Ako Pamamao

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Engaging with Distance Education Professionals of New Zealand

Allowing students to learn using non-traditional teaching methods. Anytime. Anywhere.



PLEASE LEAVE YOUR CELLPHONES ON IN CLASS

StudyTXT engaging the learner through embracing mobile learning technology.

StudyTXT constitutes a mobile learning system that allows educators to bring course content directly to students' cell phones via text messaging. The system was introduced as a pilot to a first year accounting decision-making course by lecturer Nick McGuigan and Associate Professor Sidney Weil, who were excited about the potential for the technology to open up new approaches to learning.

Whilst commuting to and from work Nick witnessed the potential learning capability of the mobile phone, observing how extensively it was used by students to download and listen to music, to pass time through video gaming and to stay in contact through social networking. The development of StudyTXT for use in Acct 102 was modelled on the work of Mellow (2005), who created and used text messaging in an Applied Anatomy course at the Auckland University of Technology (AUT). Mellow (2005) had developed Short Message Services (SMS) text messages, containing small quantities of information that could be transferred in a mobile learning environment. The authors collaborated with Mellow in order to develop this resource within a business context.

The use of mobile technology is a means of engaging (Sheahan, 2005) the emerging 'Generation Y' student population. Being very technology-literate, these students are very familiar with mobile technology and its many uses. Students carry their mobile phones with them, using them constantly for social networking and to help manage many different aspects of their lives. StudyTXT aims to embrace and harness that technology and make learning something that fits into their lifestyles and is part of the social networking phenomenon.

The primary benefit associated with StudyTXT is that it provides a learning resource that transcends normal learning parameters and constraints in terms of its availability, location, delivery and pace (Prensky, 2003; Attewell and Saville-Smith, 2004; Geddes, 2004; Mellow, 2005). Students are able to download SMS messages at any given time, or location that is supported by the New Zealand mobile phone network coverage, throughout the semester. In this respect, the teaching resource becomes an on-demand, privately available study support resource allowing students a heightened level of confidence with their study (Attewell, 2005).



Texters in Action

It's not unusual for students to be given a talk about cell phones during their first lecture. But for students in a recent Lincoln University summer school accounting class, instead of the expected rules about keeping phones turned off, they were encouraged to keep them on - and even to use them during class.

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DEANZ NEWSLETTER

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Contributions for the next issue must reach the editor by 15th October 2009. They should be sent to Nick McGuigan and Thomas Kern at the above address.

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From the Editors

The DEANZ Flier has had a recent hiatus from distribution and we would like to welcome back the new look and feel DEANZ newsletter to provide you with up-to-date news on all things distance education related.

With the current economic climate in financial recession, organisations, businesses, schools, individuals are looking to new ways of thinking in order to overcome some of the obstacles the environment provides. For us at DEANZ we believe there has never been a better opportunity for the use of distance education to enhance workplace support to employees, solve distance problems through internet based e-learning and offer informative programmes to the secondary school sector. We urge you to take up the fight against the recession and embrace the DEANZ newsletter to inform you about local and international news and events.

Our inaugural issue is packed with local and international events including upcoming conferences, seminars and workshops. Planning for the DEANZ conference 2010 is well underway (see page 3) held on April 25 - 28 2010, in Wellington. Articles of interest include a review on an innovative teaching practice at Lincoln University 'Please leave your cellphones on in class' where students were told to embrace the use of the cellphone in a not-so-traditional lecture theatre. An update from the Ministry of Education on its available e-learning resources is provided along with an article discussing Otago

Polytechnics support of open education resources.

DEANZ plans to extend its communication arm to its members through a three-prong approach. DEANZ is offering members a quarterly newsletter, the DEANZ eNews which is likened to an email update of current events and happenings on a more frequent basis and through its website postings. In this way, the DEANZ team hopes to offer its members more in the way of communication.

With this in mind, we would like to hear from you. We encourage your opinions, comments, ideas, stories, tips and how-tos to be sent to us in order to build up a shared distance education community throughout New Zealand. If you know of something interesting happening at your campus, around your proximity or even further abroad let us know and we can start to provide up-to-date news and information in the world of open, flexible and networked learning. That is another way of saying that we want all members to contribute.

Get in contact, we would like to hear from you: Email: nicholas.mcguigan@lincoln.ac.nz or thomas.kern@canterbury.ac.nz. Physical contributions can be sent to:

8 Te Ara Crescent, Rd 1, Lyttelton,
Canterbury, New Zealand.

Nick McGuigan and Thomas Kern



Keep in touch with news from DEANZ

www.deanz.org.nz

We would like to hear from you. If you have an idea of what you would like to see in our quarterly newsletter or would like to submit a contribution please get in touch us. Contact details to the left.

Otago Polytechnic and Open Education

The last two years have seen some revolutionary changes in Otago Polytechnic's policies on intellectual property and copyright. Otago Polytechnic supports the principles of open education and recommends the creative commons attribution licence options, in particular the CC-BY licence as a default for all educational resources. Mātauranga Māori, for which there is a separate policy recognising indigenous knowledge, innovations and practices, has a distinct ownership issue and may be treated differently.

This new stance has posed a challenge for some staff who may have considered the restriction of copyrights over learning materials as sensible business practice, but the connection with international practitioners and our ability to reuse resources more freely has been of great benefit to staff and students. Open educational resources (OERs) are educational media and documents that use open standard formats and carry copyrights that permit others to make copies and republish adaptations, and we have used external Internet services such as

WikiEducator, YouTube, and Internet Archive to maximise availability and access. One consequence has been a great increase in awareness of Otago Polytechnic's work throughout the tertiary education sector, some of which has resulted in staff development benefits in both directions.

Innovation can create some temporary difficulties, and a few collaborative endeavours have had to deal with differing intellectual property policies of other institutions. From a global perspective, our developers are making the transition from working with prescribed learning outcomes and the consequent course structure to working with graduate profiles and skill sets. Capability building, especially in digital literacy, is probably the most valuable outcome for staff and students in the short term; but, as with any open classroom situation, context-specific learning can only be enhanced by sharing knowledge.

Otago Polytechnic has also established the International Centre for Open Education as a non-profit entity to attract support and interest from around the globe.

Open Education
a cause for
celebration at Otago
Polytechnic



DEANZ CONFERENCE 2010



Mark your diaries now!!

DEANZ Conference 2010, April 25 - 28, Wellington. Planning is well underway with keynote speakers being addressed and principal sponsor Massey University hosting what looks set to be an informative start to 2010. Keep your eye on the DEANZ website www.deanz.org for further information.

Member institutions make a contribution in return for shared services from international open education professionals, thus reducing costs, sharing in capability building for innovative learning design, accessing quality customisable resources and achieving global visibility and recognition.

Many examples of Otago Polytechnic's OERs can be found on the WikiEducator website; for example, a level 7 course from our Graduate Certificate in Tertiary Learning and Teaching called Flexible Learning Practice http://wikieducator.org/Flexible_learning.

Very popular cooking videos (accessed in the many thousands) from the School of Hospitality, as well as chainsaw and other handtool maintenance videos from Horticulture, can be found through Otago Polytechnic's YouTube playlists: <http://www.youtube.com/otagopolytechnic>. These were originally made for enrolled students, but their availability has proved to be a great community service and an excellent marketing tool.

More information about this work can be found at <http://www.otagopolytechnic.ac.nz/schools-departments/educational-development/open-education.html>. Or please contact me at marler@tekotago.ac.nz

Terry Marler
Team Leader
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Ministry tertiary e-learning resources now available for use

Resources addressing priority knowledge needs in the sector are now available at <http://www.minedu.govt.nz/NZEducation/EducationPolicies/TertiaryEducation/ELearning.aspx>. They were created by the Ministry of

Education (Ministry) in partnership with [Ako Aotearoa](#), the [Tertiary Education Commission \(TEC\)](#) and New Zealand tertiary education organisations (TEOs).

This set of resources provides, for the first time in New Zealand, the best available evidence on e-learning in easily accessible form. They are designed to assist tertiary leaders and educators to use e-learning to achieve good outcomes for learners and to ensure that e-learning is high-quality, value-for-money and sustainable.

Taking the Lead: Strategic Management for e-Learning

Taking the Lead is based on case studies from 15 organisations across the sector highlighting how they are meeting the challenges presented by e-learning. It is a first-stop guide on e-learning for organisational leaders in the tertiary sector.

It focuses on the contribution that leaders can make to the effective strategic development and management of e-learning in their organisations. It can be used by them to assist in organisational investment planning.

e-Learning Maturity Model

Taking the Lead is complemented by the *e-Learning Maturity Model* (eMM). The eMM is a capability development framework created by the sector as part of two Ministry funded research projects. It is designed primarily for use by TEOs. It was used in New Zealand to undertake a capability evaluation of the ITP sector as part of TEC's work around distance and flexible education. It has also been adopted in a number of overseas jurisdictions including Scotland and England.

Educator bulletins

This recently published set of bulletins synthesising Ministry, TEC and other key research-based literature provides concise advice to educators and staff developers about integrating e-learning into practice in ways that meet the needs of students. The bulletins addressed the following topics:

- Cultural and social diversity of learners.
- How to engage learners.

- How to support learners.
- What to consider in designing professional development for tertiary educators.

e-Learning Guidelines (eLG)

The e-Learning Guidelines (eLG) are structured in a 'question' and 'answer' format. Each guideline is phrased as a question and the exemplars on the website (refer to <http://elg.massey.ac.nz> for further details) are the suggested answers. They are intended to facilitate discussion and reflection - an answer 'yes' or 'no' will not generally answer the question sufficiently. Each suggested 'answer' includes information on effective practice from current literature and New Zealand practice. Again, the example will not be a definitive answer but will be an overview of current thinking on the question. The eLG are widely used by tertiary educators. The eLG can also assist staff developers and organisational leaders develop appropriate and relevant e-learning professional development programmes.

Learning in the 21st Century videos

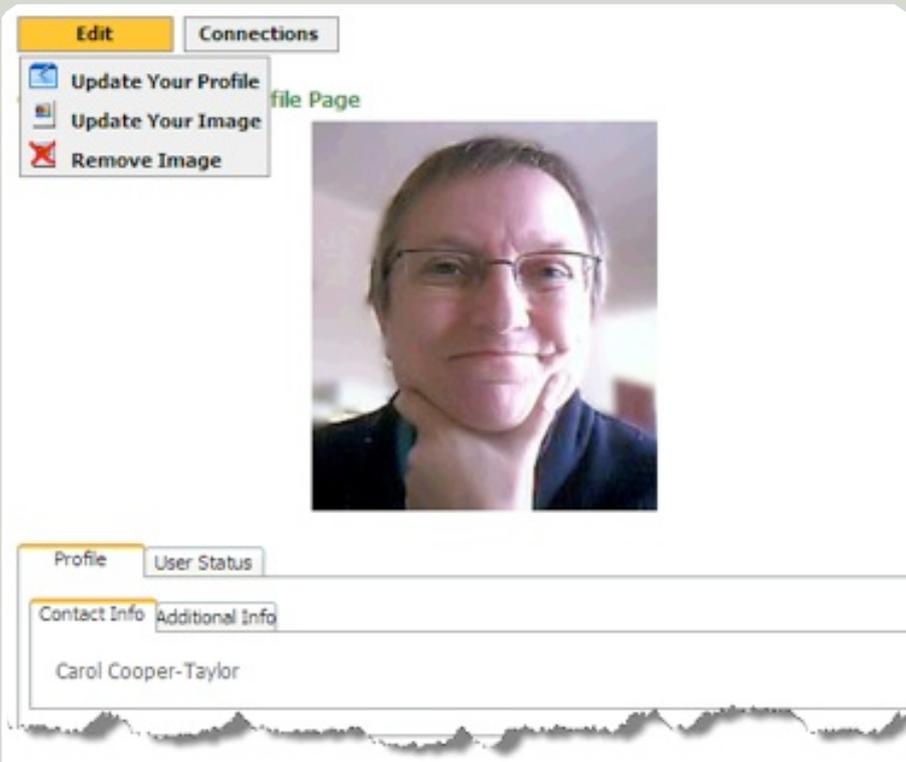
The Learning in the 21st Century videos features New Zealand tertiary students and tutors talking about their views and experiences of e-learning. These unrehearsed accounts align with the findings from research commissioned by the Ministry and TEC. The videos can be used by tertiary organisations to inform students about what to expect from e-learning, as well as carrying valuable insights for educators into the perceptions and experiences of students.

For further information on the resources please contact Peter Guiney at the Ministry of Education at tertiary.elearning@minedu.govt.nz.

Peter Guiney, Advisor
Tertiary e-Learning
Ministry of Education

DEANZ Online

Carol Cooper-Taylor, website editor, for DEANZ is committed to providing DEANZ members with up-to-date snippets of how-tos, upcoming events and web updates so watch this space!



Update your DEANZ Online Profile Now!

Did you know that you can have a visible profile on the DEANZ site? This means that you can share contact details and information about your interests with other DEANZ members.

Here's how you do it.

1. Go to the DEANZ site www.deanz.org.nz
2. Login. You will need your username and password. If you have forgotten these, click on the [Forgot Login?] link under Member Login, and follow the prompts. If you are still having problems, contact Carol Cooper-Taylor or Kathryn MacCallum via the Committee page.
3. Once logged in a Members Menu appears with a link to [Your Profile]. Click [Your Profile].

Creating
your DEANZ
online
presence

4. Via the Edit Menu you can then [Update Your Profile], [Update Your Image] or [Remove your Image]

It's a good idea to provide a picture of yourself if you want others to look at your profile. You can indicate Professional/Research interests as well as contact details.

The information you provide is available to other members and profiles therefore form a Membership Directory.

Next time we'll look at how to use the Membership Directory and how to make connections with other members.

Carol Cooper-Taylor
DEANZ Website Editor

Distance Education Snippets

Scouring the world wide web in order to bring you the latest news in distance education related events, conferences, seminars, workshops and book reviews.

Upcoming Events

The Cambridge International Conference on Open and Distance Learning
22 - 25 September 2009
St. Edmund's College, Cambridge, UK
'Supporting learning in the digital age: rethinking inclusion, pedagogy and quality'
www2.open.ac.uk/r06/conference

Sixth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF6)
24 – 28 November 2010
Kochi, India
"Access and Success in Learning: Global Development Perspectives"
www.col.org/pcf6

IADIS Multi Conference on Computer Science and Information Systems 2010
26 – 31 July 2010
Frieburg, Germany
www.mccsis.org

World Conference on E-Learning in Corporate, Government, Healthcare and Higher Education 2009
26 – 30 October 2009
Vancouver, BC Canada
www.aace.org/conf/elearn/

Moodleposium
7 – 8 September 2009
The University of Canberra, Canberra, Australia
<http://moodleposium.netspot.com.au/>

"New Horizons" enabling the sharing of experiences in using Moodle and finding out about future developments. Keynote speakers include Professor Denise Kirkpatrick from the Open University in the UK and Martin Dougiamas, Moodle founder and lead developer.

IADIS International Conference on Cognition and Exploratory Learning in Digital Age (CELDA 2009)
20 – 22 November 2009
Rome, Italy
<http://www.celda-conf.org/>

Distance Education Book Reviews

Perspectives on Distance Education: Open Schools for the 21st Century
Edited by Dominique A.M.X. Abrioux and Frances Ferreira

The newest title in COL's "Perspectives on Distance Education" series explores how open schooling can help solve the world's most pressing educational challenge: expanding secondary education. Aimed at policy makers and educational planners "Open Schools for the 21st Century" shows how open schooling can be adopted for a range of purposes and in different ways, using a variety of technologies and approaches. With contributions from educators with



Keeping you informed

first hand experience in open schooling, the book confirms that open schools can provide good quality secondary education as long as senior policy makers, bureaucrats and administrators are well informed about the key factors affecting success in open schooling, and that they use this knowledge to plan, implement and monitor their own open school initiatives.
www.col.org/perspectives/openschooling

Open Learning: Special Issue on OERs
Open Learning: The Journal of Open and Distance Learning has published a special issue focused on open educational resources. This issue is guest edited by UNESCO's Ms. Susan D'Antoni. In recognition of the nature of the subject and its importance, the publisher, Routledge, is providing open online access to this issue of Open Learning.

www.tandf.co.uk/journals/opl (click on: "Free access to Open Learning's Special Issue: Open Educational Resources")

DEANZ AWARD

The Distance Education Association of New Zealand (DEANZ) wishes to promote and reward excellence in e-learning, distance, open and flexible learning. The DEANZ Award is open to individuals or groups in New Zealand, or New Zealand citizens living overseas, who have completed

a project that meets the criteria of the Award.

Awards are given for projects that:

- advance understanding of best practice in e-learning, distance, open and flexible learning in New Zealand;

- are original or innovative in concept or application;
- are relevant to and whose outcomes are useful to the e-learning, distance, open and flexible-learning community

Check out the website for more details: www.deanz.org.nz/home