

ascilite 2014

TEMPLATE: Sharing practice proposal for review

Note: This documents is set up with styles based on a specially created **ascilite** 2014 template to help you use the correct formatting. Styles are shown in block quotes with examples below. Feel free to type in place of examples or remove them. You may also remove the text in this header.

Bringing digital literacies to incarcerated students

Presenter(s): Dr Helen Farley

Keywords

Incarcerated students, digital divide, digital literacies, increasing participation

Audio/Visual Requirements

Room set up workshop style (group tables of 6 – 8) with the following: AV - Data projector and screen, whiteboard.

Abstract

Incarcerated students in most jurisdictions are prohibited from accessing the internet. This discussion will focus around the learnings from a number of projects from the University of Southern Queensland which have been introducing educational technologies into correctional centres for the delivery of USQ programs and courses. These projects include the OLT-funded *From Access to Success* project and a number of HEPPP-funded projects including the *Triple 'E'* project (eLearning, eReaders and Empowerment), *Paper to Pixels* and the \$4.3 million *Making the Connection* project. *Making the Connection* will see the deployment of USQ's Learning Management System and tablet computers deployed into 13 correctional centres across Australia.

This discussion will also report on the findings of research with other Australian universities around the provision of eLearning for incarcerated students and with correctional centre educational officers in regards of their capacity to assist educators. This discussion will give those educators dealing with incarcerated students some ideas and strategies for using technologies with incarcerated students, and some insights into the motivations and compounding issues when dealing with students in correctional centres.

Session agenda:

1. The session will begin with a brief overview of USQ's projects dealing specifically with incarcerated students and technology. This will be streamlined by the provision of a pamphlet giving details of those projects so that too much time is not taken up with this portion of the program.
2. Attendees will be asked about their experiences in dealing with incarcerated students (and other students unable to access the internet), and will be encouraged to share these experiences with the group.
3. Attendees will be provided with information gathered during the project phases about the needs and issues faced by both incarcerated students and by correctional centre education officers.
4. The session will conclude with some strategies that may be employed (and that we have found useful) in dealing with incarcerated students, including the deployment of digital technologies.
5. If time permits, we will consider as a group some of the specific issues identified by attendees.

The discussion is designed to be interactive whereby questioning and comment is encouraged. Resources will be made available such that attendees can access them after the session.