

DEBUT - Digital Experience Building in University Teaching

<http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/ltu>

DEBUT

Mind the Gap

Staff development to bridge the digital divide

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The session

Session aim:

To provide an overview of the motivations, methodology and findings from year one of the DEBUT programme.

Session content:

- Concepts, background and approach
- An illustration of the DEBUT approach
- Hearing back from our DEBUT participants
- Project findings and the way forward
- Questions and answers



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Concepts,
background
and
approach

Digital literacy:

- The concept of digital literacy is at the heart of the DEBUT project.
- Digital literacy is the ability to understand and use the information which is conveyed from a wide variety of sources via an increasing array of electronic or digital tools.
- It is as much about attitude and application as it is about skill or process, and it is a relative concept.
- Allan Martin (DigEULit) defines the elements of digital literacy as:
 - **Awareness** of the ICT and information environment
 - **Confidence** in using generic ICT and information tools
 - **Evaluation** of information-handling operations and products
 - **Reflection** on one's own eLiteracy development
 - **Adaptability** and willingness to meet eLiteracy challenges



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Concepts,
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Background to DEBUT:

- At Canterbury Christ Church we have wide spread practice of using e-tools, but few really creative examples, and mostly this practice is concentrated on our VLE.
- Few staff are “digital natives” – each new technology is often challenging sometimes threatening.
- So we (the sector) have to “train” staff on each tool as it comes along. A systems-approach to staff development. We thought this approach was exacerbating our lack of progress.
- What we wanted to explore was a more contextualised, holistic and intensive approach where the focus was on raising the overall digital literacy of staff rather than their skills on a specific tool.



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Concepts,
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The DEBUT approach:

- We accepted expressions of interest from 25 of our staff from across our institution.
- We made available a suite 25-30 digital experiences (some of which were existing technologies in the institution, others completely new) and asked our participants to choose six.
- We helped participants choose these tools by interviewing them at the outset of the project to discuss their digital experience, their attitudes to and use of technologies, their needs – their context.
- Our tools were supported by a variety of staff development approaches (workshop, 1:1, self-directed), a number of times during the project life cycle.
- Participants evaluated each digital experience and the overall DEBUT approach



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Applying
the DEBUT
approach

An illustration of the DEBUT approach

To illustrate how DEBUT works we are going to ask you to:

1. Reflect on your digital use and confidence
2. Choose some digital experiences

From this exercise you can then take away a personal digital development plan.



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Hearing
back from
our DEBUT
participants

Hearing back from our DEBUT participants

[Motivations, reflections and applications – some comments from some of our DEBUT participants.....](#)



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Project findings and where next for DEBUT?

Findings thus far:

Our participants have overwhelmingly been extremely positive about DEBUT with most saying they are becoming far more digitally confident.

Issues

- Time pressures
- Impact of different skill levels in group staff development

Factors which our participants have particularly valued are:

- Choice of learning was personal and could be applied immediately
- Intensity and variety of digital experience
- The realisation and ability to link tools e.g. PowerPoint and video
- Use of follow-up sessions with activities valued as a motivator
- The opportunity to share approaches of tool use in practice



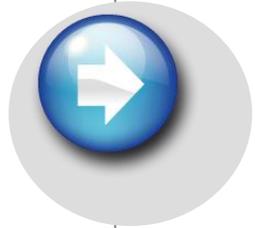
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Project
findings and
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for DEBUT?

Where next?

- We will commence DEBUT2 in May 2008 – why:
 - to further enhance the programme
 - to embed it in the institution
 - to make the support for and development of e-learning more sustainable by developing a community of e-experts/mentors in our faculties
 - to better equip the institution to exploit an increasing variety of learning environments – physical and virtual.



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Project
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Any questions?

Further info at: <http://www.canterbury.ac.uk/teu>

