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“Digital Skills for Success in the Workplace”: a student-staff partnership for accessible course content creation

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Meet

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Digital Skills for Success in the Workplace

- Collaboration between students and staff from UCD Library and the Colleges of Social Sciences and Law, Health and Agricultural Sciences and Science.
- A grade-neutral, self-paced, 5-unit online course designed to equip learners with key digital skills that are essential to study and work in rapidly evolving online environments.

Course Content

- **5 units**, aligned with the 5 themes in UCD's Digital Literacy Framework:
  - Digital Information in a Professional World
  - Thinking Critically about Digital Information
  - Co-creating in Digital Spaces
  - Digital Identities and Privacy
  - Digital Integrity in Your Professional Life

1.

Student experience

Introduction

The Extra Opportunities

- User's Critique
- Tidying Transcripts
- Editing Feedback
- The Code Book

Outcome Value

Understanding

Feedback

Perspectives

Needs

Experience

Practical

Applicable

Impactful

Engagement

Guidance

Cooperation

Initiative

Focus Groups & Audio

- Adding an audio option
- Audio enjoyed by more students than expected
- Making the audio

Creative Studio, Ballyfermot Library
www.dublincity.ie

Creating the Audio

- Tutorial script - downloadable PDF
- Adobe Audition - mp3 file
- Accessible learning style for all

Universal Design for Learning in action

Universal Design for Learning

- Learning options for all
- Accessible for all
- No labels required

2.

Staff experience

A learning journey for all staff involved

Multidisciplinarity

- Staff and students from very different disciplines: Information and Communication Studies; Social Justice; Nursing & Midwifery; Educational Technology; Library.
- A variety of points of view on issues such as digital identity, privacy and digital integrity.
- Great combination of knowledge and skills: audio recording, digital literacy, qualitative research, learning design, etc.

Feedback from students who took the course

- Students reported that the module made them think differently about the overlap between their personal and professional identities in online platforms.
- They particularly enjoyed the accessibility options, e.g., each tutorial in the module had audio and plain-text versions that could be downloaded.

“I loved how there was a variety of way[s] to engage with the content. I printed the content off, but also listened to the audio while also doing the activities as they came up. This really suited my learning style.”

Staff experience of updating the course

- Incorporation of accessibility options including audio enhanced staff's Universal Design for Learning skills, while also posing some challenges [e.g. version control].
- The variety of means to capture student feedback [reflective assignment, course survey, focus groups] was particularly valuable when updating course content in all formats.

Project Feedback from Staff

- The students-as-partners approach facilitated staff understanding of information flows and management needed for digital content co-creation with students.
- The partnership highlighted the importance of the student voice in the creation of educational materials to develop digital literacy skills.

“This student partnership fostered a shared learning environment, which enhanced my own perspectives on collaborative teaching methods and resource co-creation. Overall, the experience [...] reaffirmed the value of incorporating student voices into educational design processes.” [Liam Fogarty, project member, UCD IT Services]]

Future Sustainability

- The course is now hosted by UCD Library, to ensure future continuity.
- Course assessment has moved from a reflective piece to a quiz, to facilitate sustainability.
- Library student interns will work on updating the course in the future, embedding the student voice in every iteration of the course.

Thanks!

Any questions?

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