Talking with Pods: a look inside UQ Library’s Podcasting project

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Background

• Changes within the University and Library
  – iTunes U; Lectopia = students expect multiple media for learning
  – Addition of Mac machines to library

• Development of Innovation Lab space for Library Staff
Goals

• Identify areas of use for audiovisual/podcast material in the Library’s services
• Create different types/examples of material – foundation for further development
• Document softwares and processes and train other staff
Tools

Hardware

– 3 iMac desktop computers – running Mac software
– Logitech USB-connect standing microphone
– Handheld Panasonic camcorder
Tools

Video Software

– ScreenFlow (screen capture films)
– iMovie HD (editing of shot video footage)

– Note: Adobe Captivate trialled and rejected
Tools

Audio Software
– Audacity (sound recording)
– Garage Band (enhanced podcasts, music)

Other
– Keynote (for moving slides)
Types of Output

1. Virtual Tours of Branches
2. Guides to specific library databases & techniques
3. Audio/video integrated with coursework in the Schools, supplementing Information Skills face-to-face classes
4. Audio/video integrated with coursework in the Schools, used in place of Information Skills face-to-face classes
5. Staff Training
Virtual Tours of Branches

• Prototype 1: live video
  – Shot on hand-held camcorder
  – Stills & titles added with iMovie HD
  – Music added with GarageBand

  – Labour-intensive, difficult to do well, lacks a professional look
  – But: fun, more casual approach to library orientation
Virtual Tours of Branches

• Prototype 2: moving still image show
  – Visuals created using KeyNote slideshow
  – Voice recorded with Audacity
  – Exported slides as images into ScreenFlow, addition of music and voice

  – Consistent professional look and feel
  – Easy for staff to put together and edit
Guides to Databases

- Guides on specific techniques/searches created for some complex databases
  - Both voice and visuals created using ScreenFlow
  - Only created for databases that did not have their own visual instructions for searches
Podcasts integrated with assessment

- Podcasts created for specific courses and/or assessment items
- Delivered through Blackboard learning management system
  - Statistics on usage available
  - Secure UQ-domain hosting
- Students required to either attend physical class or use podcasts as online class in order to pass test
Podcasts in place of regular library information sessions

- Used when a full class is impossible or impractical
  - Eg timing problems, external students
- Also delivered through Blackboard learning management system
- Brief, simple “one use only” tailor made material
Staff Training

• Demonstrate and visually instruct in our suite of podcasting products
  – Screen recordings and voice created using Screenflow
  – Text-and-picture hard copies of instructions also created

• Available to all staff as part of a “podcasting toolkit”
Ongoing Developments

• Podcasting training for staff
• Investigating publishing avenues
• Developing new podcasts
  – Website FAQ’s
  – Catalogue Search Techniques
  – Basic generic IL video clips
  – Discipline/course/assignment-specific help
Questions?

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