April 2014

Welcome to the QLD E-learning News!
A monthly newsletter providing information about events, resources, funding opportunities, research findings and news, from the National VET E-learning Strategy (NVELS).

QLD NVELS Webinars

Details of this month's webinars are outlined below. For further details and to register go to http://www.vetpd.qld.gov.au/program-and-calendar/index.html

(2nd) April topic:
'e-Learning Content Deployment'
Presented by Shane Dowd in conversation with Tracie Regan, Francis Kneebone, Thomas Marshall, Mel Worrall and Nat Denmeade
- S*tudents are hoping to access their learning content via a number of technology platforms. It should be easily accessible whether the student is at work or home, in class or travelling on the bus.*
This session will illustrate how training staff can make e-learning content available for their students.

Recordings for the March webinars can be accessed here –

Gamification in education with Dr Bron Stuckey and Natalie Denmeade

E-learning Content Customisation – with Shane Dowd

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http://www.flickr.com/photos/alpertecer/4103986832

What's on the Horizon?: Learning Analytics

'Learning analytics is the measurement, collection, analysis and reporting of data about learners and their contexts, for purposes of understanding and optimising learning and the environments in which it occurs' (Wikipedia - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Learning_analytics).

Whereas analysts in business use consumer data to target potential customers and personalize advertising, learning analytics leverages student data to build better pedagogies, target at-risk student populations, and assess whether programs designed to improve retention have been effective and should be sustained. For educators and researchers, learning analytics is crucial to gaining insights about student interaction with online texts and courseware.

Students are beginning to experience the benefits of learning analytics as they engage with mobile and online platforms that track data to create responsive, personalized learning experiences.
(http://horizon.wiki.nmc.org/Learning+Analytics)

Here's a few good readings on the topic:
Clarke J & Nelson.K, 2013. Perspectives on Learning Analytics: Issues and challenges. Observations from Shane Dawson and Phil Long https://fyhejournal.com/article/view/166/173

Hoel.T (ed), Will Analytics transform Education?
A critical view on the data we gather about the learners
http://www.learningfrontiers.eu/?q=story/will-analytics-transform-education

Siemens.G & Long.P, 2011. Penetrating the Fog: Analytics in Learning and Education
http://www.elmhurst.edu/~richs/EC/OnlineMaterials/SPS102/Teaching%20and%20Learning/Penetrating%20the%20Fog.pdf

Walsh.K 2012, Exploring the Khan Academy's use of Learning Data and Learning Analytics
http://www.emergingedtech.com/2012/04/exploring-the-khan-academys-use-of-learning-data-and-learning-analytics/

Cool tools: Authoring tools

A wide range of software and apps now exist to enable educators to create their own course content including pages, embeddable multimedia applications etc with navigation.

In the following Learning Solutions magazine article the author reports on an in-depth analysis of respondents' view of the importance of individual asynchronous eLearning authoring tool features.
http://www.learningsolutionsmag.com/articles/1305/elearning-guild-research-what-authoring-tool-features-are-important-to-you

The full report is available here:
eLearning Authoring Tools 2013: What We're Using, What We Want Full Report
http://www.elearningguild.com/showfile.cfm?id=5115

What tools are you using to create e-learning content? We'd love to hear from you about what works well in VET.

What will be in this year's TOP 100?

Each year for the past 7 years Jane Hart and team in the UK survey people like you to compile the years Top 100 Tools for Learning. Votes come in from over 500 learning professionals from 48 countries worldwide. Why not have your say when this years survey comes around!

The 2013 list is available from the url below. Click the name of the tool to find out more about it, its cost, availability, its past rankings and to read some of the comments from those who voted for it.
http://c4lpt.co.uk/top100tools/#sthash.Zi4XLkVT.dpuf

News: RMIT Builds a Desktop-Free University

RMIT's myDesktop VDI (virtual desktop infrastructure) project aims to equip the university's new Swanston Academic building in Melbourne with a network that will allow students to connect to is with their own devices from anywhere in the building. There will be no dedicated computer labs.

http://www.itnews.com.au/News/329948,rmit-builds-a-desktop-free-university.aspx

Content Corner: Deploying your content

There is a range of free e-learning content available to Trainers today. Try the National VET Collection (https://nationalvetcontent.edu.au), managed by the federal government.

World-wide training portals such as The Khan Academy (www.khanacademy.org) provide free education and are also proving popular. In addition, check out the Adobe Education Exchange (http://edex.adobe.com) and the Microsoft Partners in Learning (www.pil-network.com).

These organisations can see the value in engaging in partnerships with training staff.

Learners would like the option to study when and where they want - for example, while they are on public transport, at home, at work, etc. How do we ensure that Learners have that access to learning content in a variety of ways?

Join QVDC's Shane Dowd, in the "e-Learning Content Deployment" webinar Midday AEST 23rd April, as we ask some top practitioners how they are achieving that outcome.

Register for this free event at
http://www.vetpd.qld.gov.au/program-and-calendar/index.html

Upcoming Conferences

1.AVETRA 2014 Conference
This years AVETRA Conference will be held this month from 22 – 24 April 2014 at Outrigger Surfers Paradise.
To register go to http://avetra.org.au/annual-conference/registration and click here for the conference brochure

2.New strategies & technologies for Navigating the VET landscape.
Congress & Expo 3rd & 4th June 2014. Masterclasses 5th June 2014 at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

A great line up at this one including Sir Ken Robinson!

Key Themes:
Making mobile learning work for your organisation - Introducing and driving a mobile learning program
Transitioning to eLearning - Planning checklist for RTOs starting to embrace the virtual classroom
Partnerships with industry - Forming alliances under an integrated program management model

For more information go to
http://www.edutech.net.au/vetleaders.html

Your questions answered
Shane and I field a range of excellent questions by email each month. Keep them rolling in! Thank you.

QUESTION:
I am quite new to the training sector and our RTO is still highly paper based. I want to talk to management about adding e-learning into the mix. I think the notion is that once learning is electronic, the fees will have to be reduced to make it more affordable.
I would be grateful if you can forward me any research / case studies that compare standard distance learning and e-learning (cost benefit analysis , pros and cons).

ANSWER:
Unfortunately the notion that courses can be put online to save time and money continues to be prevalent.
The reality is that good quality online courses, ones that will retain students, are complex and time consuming to establish, and require ongoing facilitation

E-learning of course if often more about integrating some tools and strategies into face to face courses in a blended way.
In my opinion these usually are the most successful, enabling face to face time to be used effectively in a 'non-lecturing' way while new content, revision etc can be undertaken in the students own time and space.

There's some good information on our NVELS website here that might be useful - http://industry.flexiblelearning.net.au/section-1-e-learning-overview/costs-of-e-learning/calculating-the-cost-of-e-learning
and another from a colleague here - http://www.aspinelearning.com.au/content/How-much-does-eLearning-cost

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Flex e-News — NATIONAL VET E-LEARNING STRATEGY

Are you following the national NVELS newsletter?

If not you can subscribe online at
http://flexenews.flexiblelearning.net.au/

Here's a taste from the most recent edition…

What does quality e-learning look like?
In 2013, The Flexible Learning Advisory Group (FLAG) endorsed an e-learning quality model for use by RTOs to quality assure e-learning product and delivery across the VET sector.

Concentrating on relatively high-value and high-risk aspects of e-learning delivery and assessment, the quality model complements existing quality and regulatory frameworks for all RTOs, clearly defining particular quality expectations for e-learning.

The interactive model that was published on the FLAG website has recently been upgraded to include a downloadable poster for RTOs to use offline when assessing the quality of their e-learning.

For further information about this project, please contact the FLAG Secretariat.

Thoughts leaders podcasts

Thank you to Sydney TAFE (and the unmistakable voice of Michael Coghlan facilitating) for making this excellent collection of podcasts available. Where does one start!
http://sydneyinstituteonline.net/blog/category/thought-leaders-series/

Apps for education

What apps have you found useful in VET?
Here's a few to get started –
http://www.higheredtechdecisions.com/photos/apps_for_education

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Contact us

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I'm heading bush for 5 months from early April so please CC Shane in to any correspondence to me just in case I'm totally out of range! Robyn