



London 2011
PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

22nd Century Librarians and the death of information skills

Andy Jackson
Learning & Teaching Librarian
University of Dundee



About me

Andy Jackson

Learning & Teaching Librarian at Dundee University

Interested in information skills, employability
& graduate attributes



This workshop...

- ...Is the sequel to a workshop at LILAC 2010
 - ‘Just enough education to perform : information skills, professionalism and employability’
- ...Is intended to stimulate discussion & debate

Outcomes from this workshop...

- An opportunity to reflect on our own jobs and roles
- A grounding in the issues surrounding graduate skills and graduate attributes
- An understanding of the changing relationship between you and your learners
- Some ideas for potential staff development in your own institutions and libraries

This workshop will cover...

- **Activity One : the ideal graduate**
 - Key information skills
 - Personal attributes
- **The 21st Century Graduate**
 - Quality enhancements
 - Graduate attributes and the new technologies
 - 22nd Century Librarians
- **Activity Two : Learning behaviour and the new technologies**
 - Challenges of the 21st Century Graduate
 - What would help us meet these challenges?
- **Discussion, potential developments, questions, comments, suggestions...**

Activity One

- **What makes a good graduate?**
 - Consider the learners in your own organisation
 - **In pairs or groups of three, consider the following :-**
 - What are the most important **INFORMATION SKILLS** you feel they should have when they graduate (suggest two)?
 - What **PROFESSIONAL ATTRIBUTES** would you like your students to have when they graduate (suggest two)?
 - **You have 5 minutes to complete this activity**
 - Be prepared to feed back at the end, either in person...

OK, time's up!



Activity One - feedback

- Personal attributes and information skills
 - Can we agree on what information skills are the most important to a graduate?
 - Can we identify a set of ‘professional’ attributes, (values, attitudes, behaviours) which we think will be valuable to a graduate?
- New graduates are likely to be:-
 - Working towards a different kind of learning outcome
 - Using technologies and learning styles we haven’t yet fully embraced in Libraries

'Graduate Attributes' – the new learning outcomes?

Graduate Skills

Can include:-

- IT skills
- Literacy skills
- Numeracy skills
- Information skills
- Oral communication skills
- Independent learning skills
- Time management

Graduate Attributes

Can include:-

- Imagination & creativity
- Intellectual curiosity
- Ethical behaviour
- Commitment to social justice
- Understanding of diversity
- Global & environmental responsibility

Graduate Attributes

- Strong connection with HE's current focus on employability and professionalism
- Quality Assurance initiatives are driving this debate (via the QAA in the UK)
 - Institutional Audit/Institutional Review (England/Wales/N Ireland)
 - ELIR (Scotland)
 - *Enhancement Theme - 'Graduates for the 21st Century'*
- Information literacy widely accepted as one of the key graduate attributes in HE

Challenges posed by pursuit of 'Graduate Attributes'



Imagination & creativity
Intellectual curiosity
Ethical behaviour
Commitment to social justice
Understanding of diversity
Global & environmental
responsibility

How might learning be different in the future?

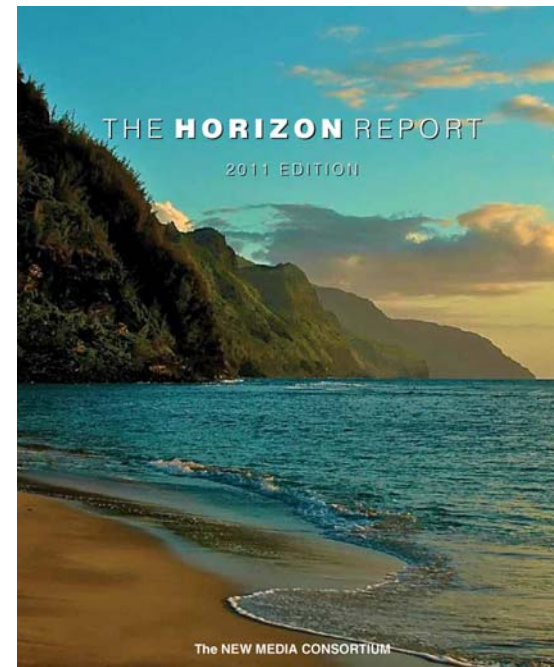


- 22 trends in educational technology, eLearning & distance learning

From NMC's *Horizon Report 2009*

Horizon Report

- Annual horizon-scanning paper produced by the New Media Consortium (NMC)
- 2011 report lists six ‘technologies to watch’
 - Electronic books (yes, really!)
 - Mobile computing
 - Augmented reality
 - Game-based learning
 - Gesture-based computing
 - Learning analytics



Challenges posed by these ‘imminent technologies’

- Predicting how they will affect education
- Predicting how they will affect our Libraries
- Aligning our organisations to meet the new pedagogies these innovations will demand
- Aligning these new technologies with the pursuit of Graduate Skills
- **Developing our own professional & personal skills in order to engage effectively with these technologies**

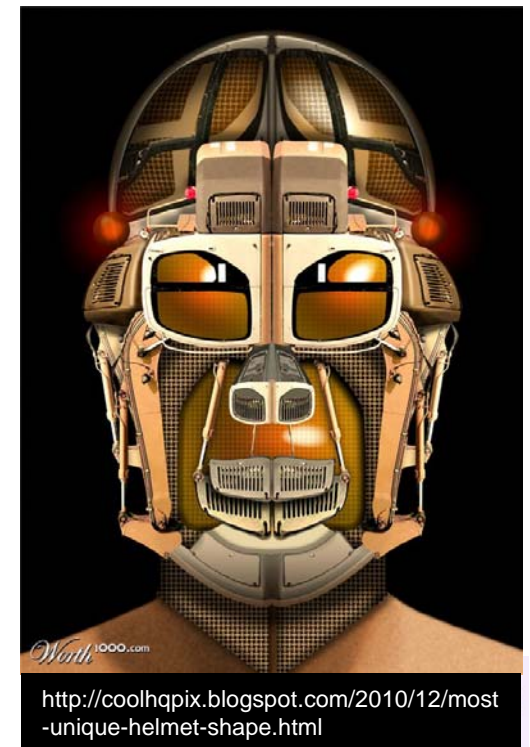


The Big Question

- If we are in danger of being overtaken by both the pedagogy and the technology...

...Is the concept of 'information skills' living on borrowed time?

- Is it too early to start thinking about the role of the 22nd Century Librarian?



Activity Two

- **Consider your current activities related to information skills teaching**
- **You will work on one of two topics :-**
 - The challenges of learners and learning behaviour
 - The challenges of current and emerging technologies
 - *What would help you address these challenges?*

Activity Two – Group One

- **Consider your current activities related to information skills teaching**
 - Working in groups of four to five, discuss :-
 - What things do you find challenging about the way your students behave as learners?
 - What things do you think your learners find challenging about information skills?
 - What would help you address these challenges?
 - You have 15 minutes to complete this activity
 - Be prepared to feed back at the end

Activity Two – Group Two

- **Consider your current activities related to information skills teaching**
 - Working in groups of four to five, discuss :-
 - What things do you find challenging about the technologies that your learners use?
 - What do you think your learners find challenging about using your Library and its resources?
 - What would help you address these challenges?
 - You have 15 minutes to complete this activity
 - Be prepared to feed back at the end

OK, time's up!



Activity Two - feedback

- **Discussion questions:-**

- Do you feel you are keeping up with changes to technology?
 - If so, what or who helps you to keep up?
- Do you feel you are keeping up with the preferences and expectations of your learners?
 - Again, what or who helps with this?
- Are you sufficiently skilled for working towards the development of graduate attributes?
 - If not, how can you rectify this?

Closing thoughts

- Rumours of the death of information skills have been wildly exaggerated
 - *“Digital media literacy continues its rise in importance as a key skill in every discipline and profession”* (Horizon Report 2011)
- Information Skills practitioners must therefore engage as far as possible with evolving technologies and pedagogies

Thanks for participating!



a.z.jackson@dundee.ac.uk

Andy Jackson
Learning & Teaching Librarian
University of Dundee

LIBRARY & LEARNING CENTRE

