



Retrofitting university learning spaces: From teaching spaces to learning spaces

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Half-day. Maximum participants 30. Intended audience: The workshop is aimed at academics, educational technologists, librarians and learning designers engaged in, or responsible for, the re/development of learning spaces. Participants should be familiar with the general learning spaces literature and have had some experience in the design process associated with the re/development of learning spaces.

Objectives

In 2008, Queensland University of Technology, Charles Darwin University and Edith Cowan University were the recipients of an Australian Learning and Teaching Council Grant titled: "Retrofitting University Learning Spaces: From Teaching Spaces to Learning Spaces". The main aim of the project is to develop scalable and transferable solutions to the question: "How do we redevelop original University classroom spaces to support new ways to enable and facilitate student learning in a cost effective manner?"

This workshop is intended to provide an opportunity for participants to actively engage with the results of the project, in particular the results of the stakeholder analysis conducted at each institution and the design guidelines developed from both the literature and the results of the stakeholder analysis. The stakeholder analysis included photo elicitation exercises with students around their favourite and least favourite spaces on their campuses and video interviews with a broad range of University Academic, IT, AV, Finance, Facilities Management and Learning and Teaching staff regarding their views of the current state of learning spaces and their views regarding their preferred future directions.

This workshop will provide participants with

- An opportunity to consider the theoretical and practical results developed to date.
- An opportunity to engage in extending the learning space design principles developed.
- An opportunity to engage in translating these principles in terms of their applicability to specific audience e.g. Academics, Facilities Managers, IT/AV specialists.

All participants will be given a CD with a range of project materials and design guidelines for easy distribution of results at their institutions.

Activities

This workshop is intended to be active and engaging and provide an opportunity for participants to engage with the project results. The main part of the workshop will be conducted through group work, with the participants divided up into groups of 5-6 people.

The workshop will include the following activities

- Presentation of the project results to date using a range of video, photographs and audio recordings.
- An interactive session designed to allow participants to engage with the learning design guidelines.
- An interactive session designed to allow participants to consider how these guidelines might need to be translated to different audiences.

The interactive components of the workshop will utilise some of the key technologies implemented or developed as part of the project.

About the presenters

Dr Geoff Mitchell is the Director of Integrated Help Services at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) where he is responsible for a range of information technology and audio visual support services, including the design and development of technology for QUT central learning spaces. As chair of the University's Physical Learning Environments Committee, Geoff has focussed on initiatives that benefit the broader University community, seeking to maximise learning outcomes for all students. Geoff is also strongly interested in student lead design of new spaces. He is a current recipient of an Australian Learning and Teaching Council grant to look at retrofitting university learning spaces: with a view to enabling and discovering new ways to facilitate student learning.

Barbara White is a Senior Lecturer, Information Technology at Charles Darwin University, where she has been involved in developing new flexible; technology integrated teaching learning spaces for the past 5 years. The initiative has been recognised with a Carrick Citation in 2006 and software developed for teaching in this space has won the ASCILITE best small project for the last two years. Previously Director of Teaching and Learning Services at CDU from 1998- 2003, Barbara was responsible for the establishment of university wide flexible learning and e-learning initiatives. Barbara is now completing doctoral studies that are examining the teaching and learning practices of students and academics who are working in a flexible teaching space. Barbara served as an executive member of the Australasian Council of Open, Distance and E-Learning (ACODE) (2002-3) and has been a member of ASCILITE since 1998.

Ms Romana Pospisil is an Educational Designer in the Centre for Learning and Teaching at Edith Cowan University and has worked in the field of educational design, academic development and educational technology since 1993. With multidisciplinary qualifications in education, computer science and multimedia, Romana has been a strong advocate for technology enhanced teaching in higher education for many years. A member of the ASCILITE community since 1997, she has participated in a number of innovative tertiary education projects including project managing a strategic ECU institutional academic initiative to encourage mobile teaching and learning: the ECU Advantage Laptop Project. Romana has recently been appointed to an ECU University learning spaces working party to chart the direction of refurbishment of twentieth century spaces for the twenty-first century. Romana's doctoral study is in the area of m-learning, identifying the factors that support anytime anywhere student-centred learning. Her expertise and research interests are in the field of m-learning, physical and virtual learning spaces, and the learning preferences of Net Generation students.

References

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