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TAFE Libraries

TAFE Queensland Libraries do 23 things

Q: Faced with the dilemma of preparing staff for a new TAFE Queensland shared library system (*Spydus*) and engaging with web 2.0 technologies that permeate learning and library environments, what would you do?

A: Encourage staff to take on the *TQL Learning 2.0* challenge, a *23 things* spin-off.

TAFE Queensland libraries' (TQL) staff enthusiastically embraced the program as a way to learn, laugh and link-up with colleagues near and far.

Blogs, wikis, image sharing sites, RSS, social bookmarking tools, podcasts, video sharing sites and virtual worlds lost their mystery during the '9 week' self-paced course which started in August 2007.

Robyn Dennis, the e-Librarian at The Bremer Institute of TAFE, Ipswich faithfully followed the *23 things* format developed by Helen Blowers of the Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenberg County, NC, USA.

Testing web 2.0 applications that aligned with the program but passed the TAFE Queensland network filters was Robyn's first challenge, followed by sourcing prizes and incentives to keep people engaged and enjoying the experience.

The program attracted 96 participants, made up by 60% of staff employed in TAFE Queensland libraries, plus five from South Australia who wanted to find out what all the fuss was about.

Upgrading digital services at TAFE NSW

The New South Wales Government will reform some aspects of the TAFE system following the release of public consultation documents and advice and input from TAFE NSW staff and stakeholders.

Initiatives will be implemented to ensure TAFE NSW keeps in step with industry and labour force developments, meeting the needs of a 'rapidly changing and challenging social and economic environment'.



L to R: Robyn Dennis The Bremer Institute, Katrina Jensen Southern Queensland Institute, Tanya Mohr The Bremer Institute

Very early in the program when numbers became overwhelming Robyn recruited co-worker Tanya Mohr to help facilitate, respond to requests for assistance and update the *TQL Learning 2.0* wiki, blog, Google spreadsheet and reports. The Bremer Institute of TAFE continues to maintain this program.

The program was sponsored by the Strategic Libraries & Information Collaborative Committee (SLICC) Queensland's peak TAFE library group together with joint funding provided through a 2007 Australian Flexible Learning Framework/Queensland 'funded e-learning professional development' program.

The Web 2.0ers share a common experience regardless of location. Some are now using web 2.0 applications to share information between campuses and a few special interest blogs on serials and equipment have emerged.

Tanya Mohr
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It is proposed to group TAFE support services into four portfolio areas: Training and Education Support; Customer Support; Business and Strategy.

Other developments underway as part of the upgrade initiative include; spending \$1 million up-skilling 10,000 TAFE staff over three years; investing \$4.5 million to upgrade TAFE digital information systems and establishing a TAFE Teachers Portal website for teachers state-wide.

Australian Library News - May 15 2008