Brave New World: Venturing Beyond the Library Walls into the Frontier of Blended Learning in Theological Education

by Lyndelle Gunton and Anna Lagos
A Common Problem

- Needed to replace a Library Technician
- Wanted to establish some online courses
- Needed to improve the IT support of the library
- Needed to increase library usage
- Limited budget

Learning & Teaching Librarians
The Concept

Develop a strategy to intentionally engage with existing and potential clients in innovative and meaningful ways to better serve the information needs of Trinity College Queensland students and staff, and the wider community of the Uniting Church in Queensland.

Our Strategy

- Move towards blended learning model
- Engage people any way possible
  - Face to face
  - Print
  - Online

Always with the intention of increasing client’s awareness & usage of the library and college offerings
What Have We Done?

• Using Moodle we’ve built an online learning platform > we call it OLÉ
• 18 courses to date
• Using all the functions of OLÉ from a repository to self-paced learning through interactive content and student engagement
• Synchronous and asynchronous learning options

How Are the Librarians Involved?

• Assisting the teachers with new ways to develop and present information
• Administrative tasks – enrolling students etc
• Advising on copyright permissions
• Tech support for online learners
• Current awareness about Moodle and teaching and learning research & trends
Supporting Blended Learning

- Information literacy support
- Developed an Introduction to Online Learning Course
- Self-paced reading for CEM course
- Live-streamed guest lectures on YouTube
- Reviewing and providing feedback on course materials developed

Interesting... But Cheap!

- Created videos using Camtasia & Tellgamis
- Hosted how-to videos on YouTube
- Use free online tools such as PicMonkey or PiktoChart to create graphics
Engagement with the wider church and student body

- Face to face
- Online
- Print
• Get people into the library
• Make sure people know where you are
• Be present outside the library
• Show & Tell to stakeholders
FACE TO FACE

TRINITY THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY

Christmas Book Drive 2014
Gift a children's book to an indigenous child

Mission Possible

All gifts of books will be sent to indigenous children in the remote communities of Walmung, Ooldea, Amata and Mullewa, and the South Australian communities of Angaston, Manyeroi and Wiangaree. The books can be used as a Sunday school resource or distributed by local indigenous churches. Presenting your library congregation or school with a Christmas Book Drive will help your children to build a love of reading. For more information, contact your local Trinity Theological Library.
• The digital library – YouTube channel, how-to clips, Tellagami promo clips, ebooks, website, storify newsletters
• Beyond the library – recording and broadcasting educational events on YouTube, social media presence, Introduction to OLÉ course, IL support for online course design and delivery

• You don’t need to be an IT expert or a graphic designer

The Writings of John
August 17th - 19th, 2015
• Ads in Queensland church magazine
• Library Survival Guide
• Infographics
Has it worked?

- Great uptake of some online courses, significant growth from 2012
- Discussion forum are being utilised
- Growing confidence in teaching staff and students in using technology
- Development in educators use of new technologies
- Planning for moving sections into online space
- Marketing engagements has improved

Evidence in the Library

- Increased membership from church community
- Increased number of active borrowers
- Increased number of student enrolments (online)
- Increased requests for information/reference support
- Increased requests for librarian/library presence at educational events
- Greater collaboration in planning for educational activities
- Increased library participation in wider church activities
There Have Been Challenges

- Participants’ computer skills – how do you give personal attention to everyone?
- Balancing library tasks with Trinity OLÉ issues
- Trying to do everything at once
- Staff support
- Aligning our vision for the future with stakeholders

What’s Next?

- Continue to evaluate current courses by gathering and analysing feedback from participants
- Strategic planning for prioritising projects with TCQ staff and the wider Qld Synod of the UCA.
- Training staff to identify, select and use a range of teaching tools across the blended learning continuum
- Extending our service offerings to a wider audience
New Ways of Being Library?

- Develop blended learning skills by enrolling in a MOOC.
- Develop an in depth understanding of your clients and how they prefer to learn. Meet them in their spaces and connect with them using the tools they prefer to use.
- Offer training for online content developers about incorporating IL principles into design and delivery.
- Use an existing OL platform to deliver IL training or other skill development.
- Consider using free tools to deliver information about library products & services in different formats.

A Brave New World?

[Image of toy cups labeled 'Cube' and 'Goldbox' and a machine]
"It Worked on the 4th Try"

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