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2017 Theme – Collaborating beyond the school walls – engaging students, teachers, parents and the community

Weaving the Future: Inquiry Learning within a Digital Curriculum

Friday March 17th 2017 - 8.45 am to 3.15 pm
Treacy Centre- 126 The Avenue Parkville 3053

Overview

As we are all aware, Digital Technologies are here to stay and students from Preschool to Year 12 and beyond, have to be skilled in not only using but also designing technologies. It is a Victorian Government requirement that “Schools need to use digital technologies as an integral component of their learning and teaching programs safely and responsibly”¹

The VCAA states that “Digital Technologies empowers students to move from being confident users and consumers of digital systems – ICT as a general capability – to being discerning and creative problem solvers, equipped for an increasingly knowledge-based economy and society.”² Librarians have always been key players in the knowledge based economy and Teacher Librarians are leaders in Inquiry Learning, both areas that underpin the new Digital Curriculum. School Libraries and Teacher Librarians are well placed to partner with teachers to support the implementation of the Digital Curriculum and assist students in achieving greater learning outcomes.

This conference will focus on the Digital Curriculum and the role of School Libraries can take in it’s implementation and execution. Focusing on Critical Thinking and Inquiry based Learning, the day will feature two speakers, Dr Mandy Lupton from QUT and Paula Christophersen formerly from VCAA, experts in the Digital Curriculum who will bring along tools and give practical advice on using them to support the Digital Curriculum in your school.

Inquiry Learning and Digital Technologies (Dr Mandy Lupton)

Mandy will present the mornings session and will bring along a number of design tools for the design of inquiry learning curriculum. These include questioning frameworks, process models and Mandy’s GeSTE windows model for information literacy. These tools will then be used to analyse and enhance participants units of work.

Note: please bring an existing outline of unit of work or an idea for a new unit of work to use in the workshop session.

Ways of thinking in Digital Technologies (Ms Paula Christophersen)

Paula explores the essential features of the Digital Technologies curriculum, paying particular attention to the different ways of thinking in the curriculum, namely computational, design and systems thinking. Exploration involves teasing out the breadth and depth of content associated with this curriculum, and how meaningful connections can be made with other learning areas. Delivery options will be considered showing alternative ways of implementing this curriculum that focuses on problem solving. Resources and the relationship between Digital Technologies and ICT as a learning tool will also be discussed.

¹ <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/Pages/techsupport.aspx>

² <http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/foundation10/viccurriculum/digitech/digitech.aspx>



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Program Summary

8.15 am – 8.45 am Registration

8.50 am Introduction to the day

9.00 am – Inquiry Learning and Digital Technologies Dr Mandy Lupton

10.30 am Morning Tea

11.00 am –Inquiry Learning and Digital Technologies (cont.)

12.15 pm Lunch

1.00 pm Ways of thinking in Digital Technologies - Paula Christophersen)

3.15 Wrap up and Conference Close

About the Speakers

Dr Mandy Lupton is a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Education at QUT. She teaches units in the Master of Education (teacher-librarianship) and has undertaken a number of research projects into inquiry learning and information literacy. In particular, she writes and presents regularly on inquiry learning in the Australian Curriculum. Her blog is at <https://inquirylearningblog.wordpress.com/>

Paula Christophersen is the former Digital Technologies Curriculum Manager at the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. She was responsible for the management of the curriculum in this field from Foundation to Year 12. Paula was a co-writer of the Australian Digital Technologies Curriculum, as well as the ICT capability. She is a member of several state and national committees focusing on Digital Technologies and has presented professional learning sessions at local, state, national and international level.

Paula is a life member of Digital Learning and Teaching Victoria and is a recipient of the Australian Professional Teachers' Association, Dorothy Hoddinott medal for Outstanding Lifetime Contribution to subject associations.