A stylized world map in a dark blue and olive green color scheme, showing the outlines of continents and a grid of latitude and longitude lines. It serves as the background for the slide.

Using Portable Moodle and eReaders to Enhance Learning at a Distance for Incarcerated Offenders

Helen Farley, Des Janke, Angela Murphy, Jonathon Fowler



USQ's Mission

Enable broad participation in higher education:

- Quality professional education opportunities that are **accessible, flexible and borderless**;
- Create **fulfilling experiences** for all students based on the commitment of skilled and caring staff;
- Develop graduates who are positioned to meet the **challenges of a rapidly changing world**;
- Pursue world-class research, **innovation** and practice in sustainable futures; and
- Engage with communities, business and government through ongoing and **mutually beneficial partnerships**.

accessible, flexible and borderless ...

Incarcerated offenders face additional challenges to those faced by most other students studying at a distance.

Lack of internet access is especially problematic for those studying in a sector that is increasingly characterised by online course offerings.



The learning landscape is changing...

Increased online
course provision

Digital learning
environments

Interactivity and
collaboration

Elimination of
exceptions handling

Withdrawal of support
for incarcerated
students



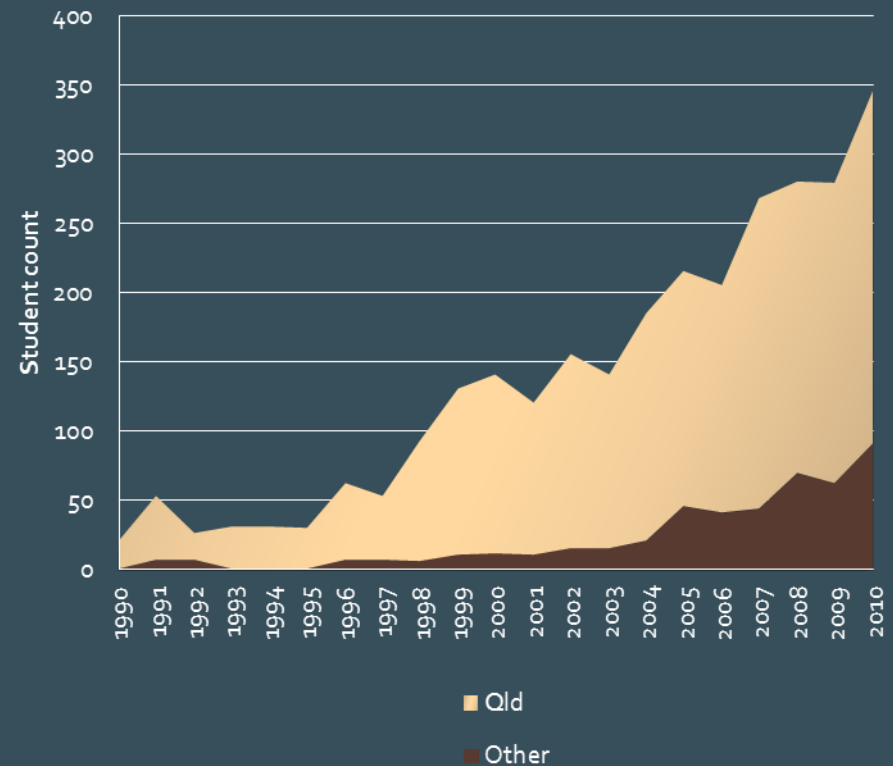
Difficulties providing
equivalent learning
experiences to students
without internet access

Difficult for incarcerated
students to develop the
skills required for
success in future
employment or study

Further exclusion of the
already socially excluded

Enrolment of correctional students in the TPP course at USQ have increased by 92% since 1990 with 256 in QLD in 2010.

Correctional Students enrolled in TPP from 1990 to 2010



Choice of courses is increasingly influenced by the extent to which a course requires internet access

- Materials are delivered to students in **hard copy format** and CD roms.
- Educational officers are responsible for **researching and printing** learning material and liaising with the university.
- **Limited access** to resources and opportunities for obtaining digital literacy and researching skills.
- Students study independently with little opportunity for **collaboration** or **discussion with peers**.
- Increasing demands on USQ lecturers, library and student support personnel to provide **alternative materials and activities** and **print and post the resources** and materials required by students.



University of Southern Queensland

mutually beneficial partnerships



Queensland Government

Queensland Corrective
Services (QCS)
Department for Correctional
Services (DCS)

serco

Serco Australia - Southern
Queensland Correctional
Centre (SQCC)

The project consists of 2 components:



Stand Alone Moodle (SAM)

- Internet-independent version of the USQ StudyDesk
- Loaded directly onto a virtual computer within the education centre's computer network
- No access to prison computers or outside world

e-Readers

- Coursework materials
- Relevant library resources
- Provided to students to take back to their cells
- No access to 3G or Wi-Fi
- No SD card slot
- No removable batteries

innovation....

Stand Alone Moodle (SAM)

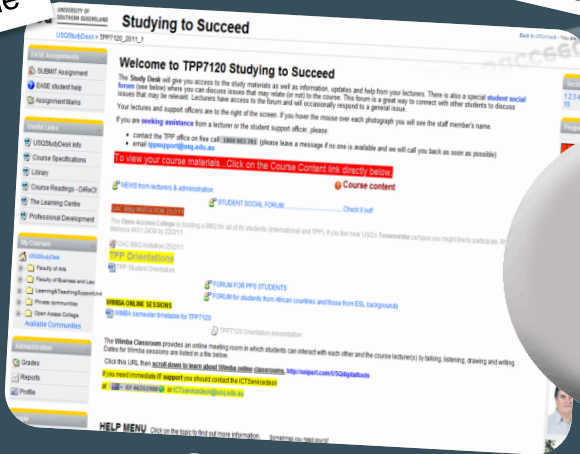


Simple and
customisable



Welcome to TPP7120 Studying to Succeed

LOGIN



- Offline course content
- Replication of USQ's study environment
- Research & digital literacy skills
- Engagement & collaboration
- Comparable experience

Question 1
Not yet answered
Marked out of 1
Flag question

When is Assignment 1 Part A due?

Select one:

- ☐ a. Monday week 4
- ☐ b. Wednesday week 2
- ☐ c. Friday week 1
- ☐ d. Monday week 2
- ☐ e. Friday week 3

Social forum



SAM Features

- Open Source application
- Open source virtual machine
- Packaged with content
- Internal interaction but no external integration
- Future is efficient data exchange



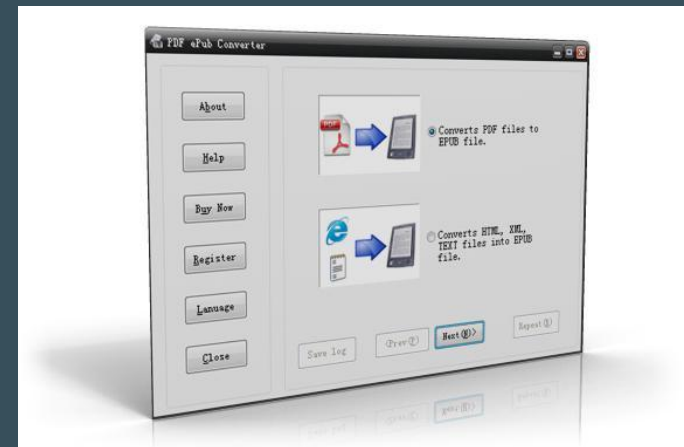
E-Readers



- Extends learning beyond the computer lab into personal time.
- Ownership of own research and learning.
- Advanced search skills.
- Experience with digital technology and digital literacy skills.

ePub

- Open format may give flexibility
- Convert existing content
- Compatible with mobile online delivery



**meet the challenges of a rapidly
changing world....**

Project Prototype

- Trial project
- 17 students
- Southern Queensland Correctional Centre in Gatton.
- TPP7120 *Studying to Succeed* within the Tertiary Preparation Program.
- Prospective students over 18 and can't gain entry via traditional pathways.
- Trial commences in Semester 2, 16 July 2012.



26% of the students enrolled in the TPP at the start of the 2010 academic year were offenders in custody.

74% were in Queensland correctional centres.



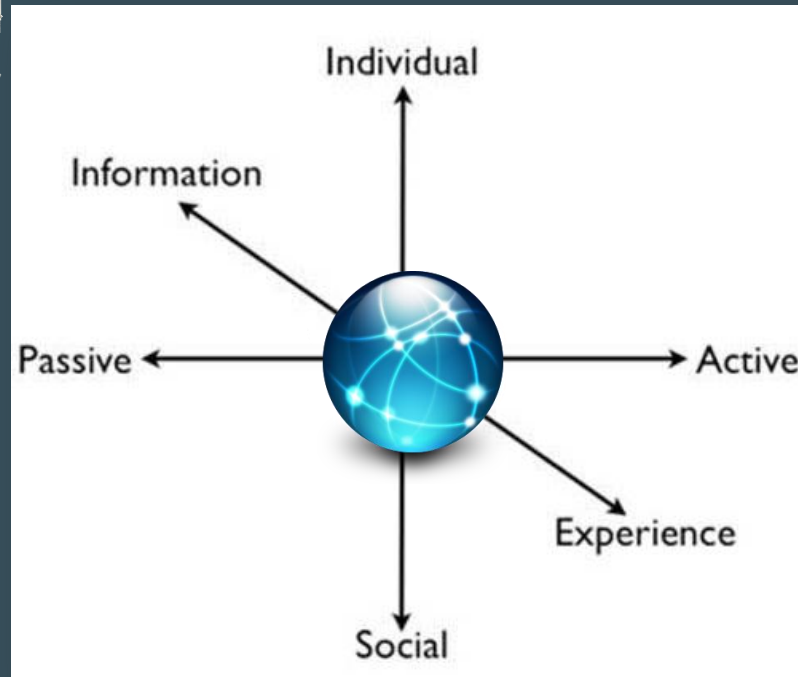
fulfilling experiences....

Expected outcome...

- e-literacy and e-research skills required in future studies and work environments.
- Reduced workload and more efficient use of time for USQ staff.
- Reduced costs, particularly printing and resources.
- Improved access to materials required for successful completion of coursework.
- Improved employment opportunities.



Enhanced potential for active, asynchronous and social learning



- Thinking and reflection
- Conversation and interaction
- Experience and activity
- Evidence and demonstration

Learning designers have access to current technologies whereas students may be struggling with technology that is old, unreliable or non-existent.

These technologies offer transferable solutions that broaden rather than narrow the access to education.



fulfilling lives....

“From a scholarly perspective, prison education reduces recidivism, enhances life skills, and is a cost-effective method of crime reduction...”

But from a humane and ethical perspective, prison education allows those who want to change their lifestyle the opportunity to do so.” Christopher Zoukis , former prisoner and contemporary author