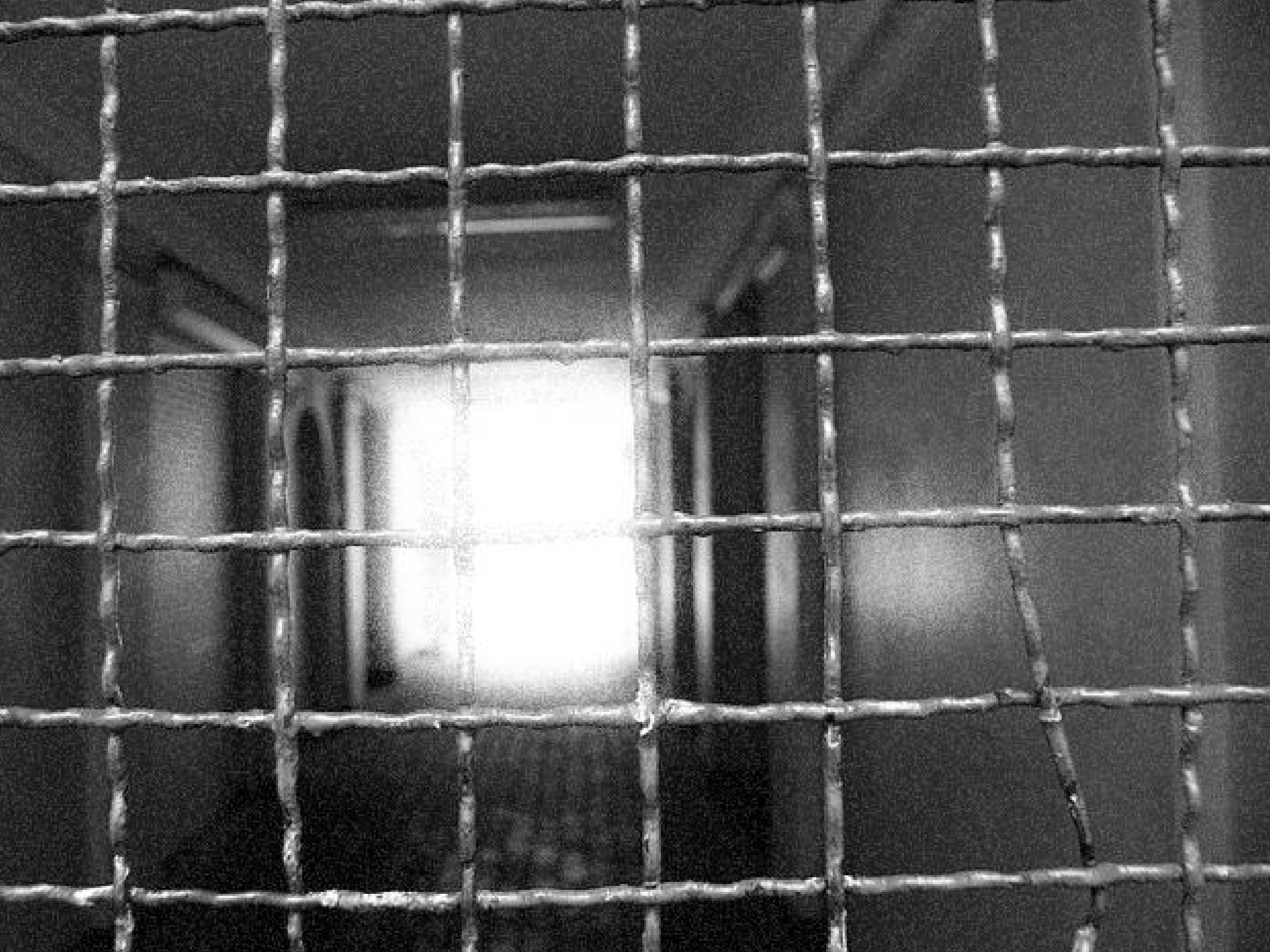


Using Portable Moodle and eReaders to Enhance Learning at a Distance for Incarcerated Offenders

USQ Open Access College
Australian Digital Futures Institute
Serco: Southern Queensland Correctional Centre
Queensland Corrective Services





Incarcerated offenders face a number of challenges additional 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

The project consists of 2 components:



Stand Alone Moodle (SAM)

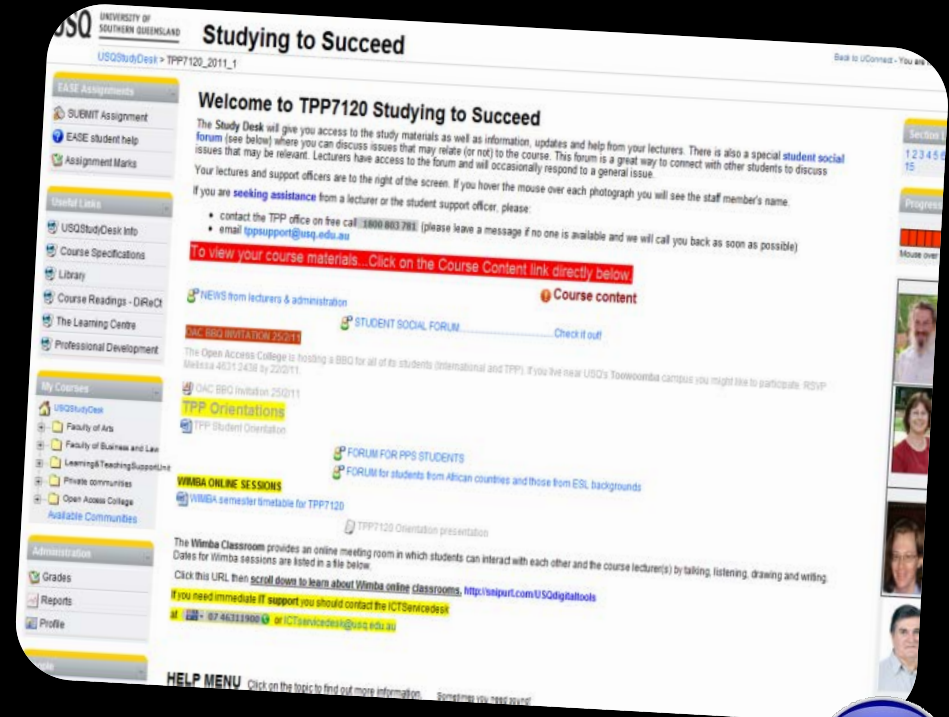
- Internet-independent version of the USQ StudyDesk
- Loaded directly onto a virtual computer within the education centre's computer network
- No access to prison computers or outside world

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

Stand Alone Moodle (SAM)

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



Simple and customisable

LOGIN

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



E-Readers

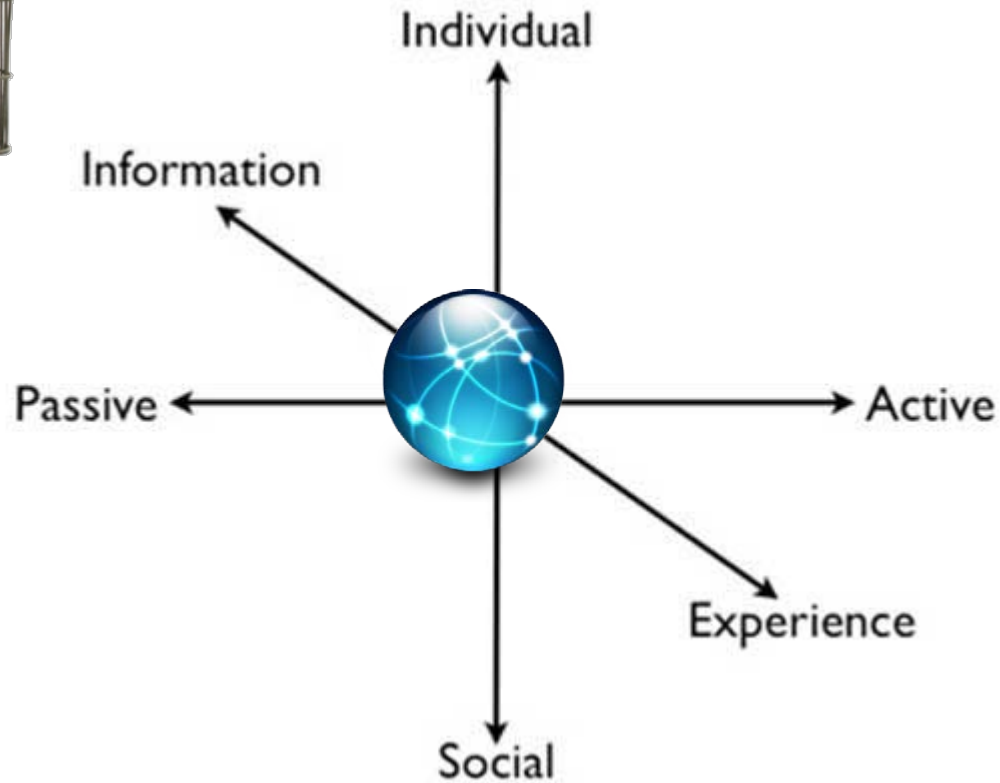
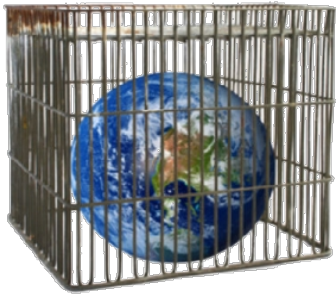
- Extends learning beyond the computer lab into personal time.
- Ownership of own research and learning.
- Advanced search skills.
- Experience with digital technology and digital literacy skills.



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 June 2012.





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

Initial Findings

Initial responses from students and education officers has been positive:

- *“The students progression with the E-Readers has been slow and steady but they are thrilled with being able to use them at their leisure to study”.*
- *“The Students have had access to the E-Readers for a longer period of time and have become very comfortable with their use they also find during times of lock down they are very convent to use for study THEY LOVE THEM”.*
- *“The Study Desk was warmly welcomed by the students they were ecstatic that they could have access to THEIR University I believe the Moodle programme will only lead to better completion percentages in correctional centres”.*

(Comments from the SQCC Education Officer)

Greatest Challenges

- Ensuring regular access for students to the computer lab
- A degree of computer literacy is required
- Aversion to group work and motivation to work on the computers on a regular basis (breaking moulds)
- ICT support within the corrections centre, password control and security
- Restrictions regarding ICT and servers

A note from Serco

- The IT Issues
- The prisoner experience
- Staff Training
- SERCO-USQ..Partnership

Questions?

“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