

The Digital Department - reaching the teaching administrators

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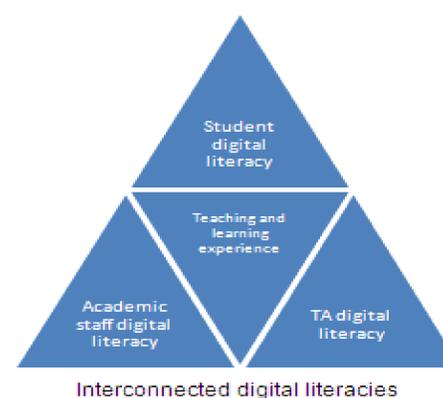
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- Across Higher Education a new cadre of well-qualified 'teaching administrators' (TAs) is emerging as critical 'change agents'.
- TAs often manage VLE resources, communicate directly with students and facilitate key educational processes such as assessment, feedback and consistent quality standards.
- TAs contribute directly to the student experience but their specific digital literacy needs are rarely recognised or addressed.
- The Digital Department will analyse the diverse skills and abilities needed in a modern 'digital department' and provide a development framework.

AIMS OF THE DIGITAL DEPARTMENT

The Digital Department aims to professionalise the digital literacy of teaching administrators. This is not simply the development of a specific group of staff; we see the digital literacies of students, academic colleagues and TAs being interconnected via the digital learning environment.



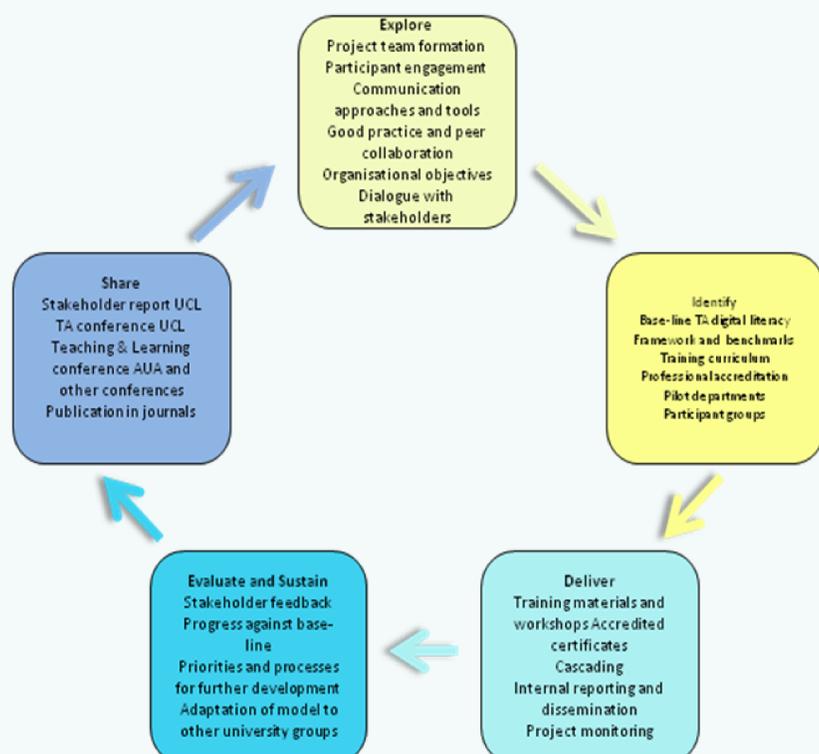
The Digital Department aims to

- Help transform curriculum delivery by exploring, identifying, evaluating and sharing the digital literacies that enable and support consistently excellent teaching administration practice across UCL, via a staff development initiative.
- Enhance professional knowledge, skills and practices by developing a community-based digital literacy training programme for which professional accreditation will be sought.
- Advance a new model and methodology for enhancing digital literacy, as a valuable model for other groups across the sector.
- Work with the Association of University Administrators (AUA) and other bodies to develop a cross-sector accreditation.

THE DIGITAL DEPARTMENT: METHODOLOGY



We will build on and deepen the situated/contextualised/ personalised staff development approach of the HEA Pathfinder DEBUT which successfully established an active academic community of literate and confident 'digital envoys'.



The Digital Department will review current processes and practices and analyse the likely future requirements with regards digital literacy for TAs throughout UCL and across the sector.

PROJECTED OUTCOMES OF THE DIGITAL DEPARTMENT

- Plan innovations
- Pilot the new innovations
- Evaluate new processes
- Embed the innovations
- AUA Certification
- Cascade to academic colleagues and students
- Cascade the model to other staff groups

Value to the wider university community

A Practical Digital Literacies Change Model

The simple logic and leverage of The Digital Department approach, once fully tested and evaluated, will be attractive across the sector, and particularly in research-led universities where change processes are sometimes problematic.

Cross-Sector Transferability

UCL's decentralised, community-led strategy of developing digitally literate supporting staff is innovative as it by-passes the main points of academic resistance (lack of time and local context) and at the same time provides an enhanced service for teachers and students alike.

The Digital Department Blog: <http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/the-digital-department/>
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