Digital Literacy Skills for Students in Accredited Programmes

Name of Institution/Organisation

University College Dublin

Who led the initiative?

UCD Library & UCD College of Social Sciences and Law

Date and timeframe of the initiative

April 2022-December 2024

What was the reach of the initiative?

To-date, the project has reached 408 students and staff at UCD. Additionally, we have had contact from several groups beyond UCD, demonstrating a wider reach of the project.

Aims/Objectives

Project aim: Equip UCD students in professionally accredited programmes with key digital literacy skills that are essential to study and work successfully in rapidly evolving online environments. Provide co-curricular opportunities for students to develop digital literacy skills.

Project objectives:

1. Develop a GPA-neutral, non-credit bearing, self-directed online module consisting of 5 units covering the five themes in UCD Library's Digital Literacy Framework: 1) finding and using digital information;
2) understanding digital identities and practices;
3) creating and communicating digital information;
4) thinking critically and evaluating digital information;
5) collaborating and sharing in digital spaces.
2. Pilot test the module with professionally accredited programmes in schools participating in the project.
3. Evaluate pilot results using both quantitative and qualitative measures [module surveys, content analysis of reflective assignments, focus groups.]
4. Roll out the module to other programmes across all UCD colleges.
5. Create a public project website showcasing all outputs as Open Educational Resources, to be maintained by UCD Library after project completion.
6. Organise a symposium on digital literacy in higher education to launch project outputs.

Rationale and Identified Needs

The world of work presents new challenges to students. Importantly, they may find they must adapt their digital strategies for successful collegial interactions and collaboration, information processing, and progression. However, how to approach this constantly evolving digital space can be daunting and requires specific approaches and skills.

This project developed a GPA neutral, self-directed, five-unit online module, Digital Skills for Success in the Workplace, to help students who may already be working and studying, or about to transition from education to the workplace. The module empowers students to develop key digital literacy skills that are essential to work successfully in rapidly evolving online environments, with a particular focus on ethical practices in online professional contexts.

Content creation for the module involved a students-as-partners approach that focused on the student voice and reflected the digital literacy needs identified by a multidisciplinary team of students and staff from three UCD colleges led by UCD Library. This multi-disciplinary collaboration between students and staff was key to delivering high-quality, relevant content and fully accessible outputs, not just for the UCD community but for anyone interested in developing digital skills for the workplace

Frameworks, Policies, or Strategies Aligned (internal, local or national)

Harnessing Digital: The Digital ireland Framework:
https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/adf42-harnessing-digital-the-digital-irela nd-framework/#
UCD Strategy 2020-2024: Rising to the future:
https://www.ucd.ie/risingtothefuture/
UCD Library Digital Literacy Framework: https://libguides.ucd.ie/diglit

Categories	Elements	Topics	Target Groups
		Digital Transformation	Students
Coordinate	Curriculum and Assessment		
	Innovation in Teaching	Academic Integrity	Wider community
Create	Professional Development		
	Research and Evaluation		
		Student Engagement and Partnership	
		Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Approaches	
		Artificial Intelligence	