

8th ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON THE TEACHING OF COMPUTING - FORMAT FOR SESSION SUBMISSION

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ABSTRACT

The poster will give an overview of the LIMES project and its outcomes. Funded by HEFCE under phase 5 of the Fund for the Development of Teaching and Learning (FDTL), LIMES was a two year project to create freely available teaching materials to enhance the employability skills of LIM graduates. Through the collaboration of departments at Loughborough University, Liverpool John Moores University and the University of the West of England, Bristol (UWE) content rich case study materials have been created. Three communities of practice have also been set up to enable practitioners to work with academics.

Keywords

Employability skills, library and information curricular, communities of practice

THE PROJECT

The LIMES project has taken the evidence of employers and the Library and Information profession to identify perceived skills gaps in the Library and Information Management (LIM) curricula. Working to the strengths of the project partners, together with practitioners, LIMES has produced case study teaching materials which are intended to enhance graduate employability. This project aimed to provide a starting point for academics to address possible employability skills gaps in the LIM curriculum. Collaboration between Loughborough University and its project partners, Liverpool John Moores University and the University of the West of England, Bristol (UWE), has created a number of content rich case studies which can be

used to enhance the employability skills of Library and Information Management (LIM) graduates.

TEACHING MATERIALS

These case study materials can be used to supplement theoretical material and provide examples to demonstrate to students how theory can be related to the workplace, helping to increase student awareness of employability skills and their ability to make direct links between what they learn at university and the needs and expectations of employers. Taking into account the skills gaps identified in the literature [1,2,3], and the survey of specialist employment agencies undertaken by the project the materials created cover areas including:

- Marketing a Library Service;
- Branding in a Commercial World;
- Disability Awareness in Collection Management;
- Cataloguing and Classification;
- Information Auditing;
- Knowledge Management;
- UK Copyright and Database Law.

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

Through a survey of academics three areas were identified where a community of practice could facilitate academics and practitioners to share expertise. These areas are:

- Cataloguing and Classification;
- Information Literacy;
- Research Methods.

Together with the HEA-ICS, the Project organised a number of events to bring together practitioners and academics to discuss how they can work together to share expertise and enable practitioners to contribute directly to teaching materials in order to help enhance graduate employability.

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SUSTAINABILITY

It is hoped that the materials created for LIMES will be sustained by the academics who created them and repurposed by those who use them. The materials lend themselves to modification and can therefore be updated and added to by the academic community. The HEA-ICS Subject Centre hosts the project website [4] and will continue to promote the materials as part of the resources available to the library and information community. It is hoped that as materials are used and repurposed, feedback regarding how the materials have been adapted and used will help sustain the materials. Using Moodle, HEA-ICS has also provided a discussion forum for each community of practice to help academics and practitioners share good practice and ideas.

REFERENCES

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- [4] LIMES Project web site can be found at <http://www.ics.heacademy.ac.uk/limes/>