Practical approaches to building the digital capability of staff and students

James Kieft, Elizabeth Newall and Lisa Gray

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Overview

• Background and context
• James Kieft - Activate Learning
• Elizabeth Newall – University of Nottingham
• Discussion
• Close

#digitalcapability
Why do we need to be digitally capable?

Staff and students need to acquire the digital skills and capabilities for living, learning and working in a digital world.

Graduate work is being transformed by digital technologies and data (IPPR 2017: Managing automation)

The pace of technology, automation, robotics and rapid global communication is revolutionising the workplace (CBI/Pearson Education and Skills Annual Report, Nov 2018)

Only 18% of leaders believe UK school leavers and graduates have the right digital skills. (Deloitte, 2019)

38% of workplaces in Europe report that a lack of digital skills is harming their business (European Commission: ‘Human capital: Europe’s Digital Progress Report 2017)
Building digital capability service

https://digitalcapability.jisc.ac.uk/
Digital capability framework: establishing a common vocabulary

- Information literacy
  - Data literacy
  - Media literacy

- ICT proficiency
  - ICT productivity

- Digital learning
  - Digital teaching

- Digital creation
  - Digital research and problem solving
  - Digital innovation

- Digital identity and wellbeing
  - Digital identity management
  - Digital wellbeing

- Digital communication
  - Digital collaboration
  - Digital participation

Building the digital capabilities of staff and students
A starting point: the discovery tool

The discovery tool

• A self-administered quiz about professional digital practices (in education)
• Designed to give useful feedback including 'next steps' and links to resources
• Reflective, informative and developmental
Building digital capability service

• Now working with over 50 universities, colleges and other organisations including:
  - 35 universities
  - 14 colleges
• Over 7,000 staff and 6,000 student completions of our question sets

Find out more and sign up at: digitalcapability.jisc.ac.uk
James Kieft, Activate Learning
Digital skills development – key aspect of Digital strategy

4 C's of Digital Skills

- Communicate
- Collaborate
- Curate
- Create
Developing staff digital skills
Senior leadership - support
Catalyst development discussion
Complemented other approaches
Student digital capabilities

Elizabeth Newall, University of Nottingham

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Senior Librarian: Digital Literacy

Purpose and context

• In curricula information literacy provision
• Gaps in supporting digital capabilities
• Teaching Excellence Framework
• Digital Futures Programme
• Faculty Digital Learning Directors
• Professional Competencies in the Curriculum
• Educational Enhancement and Assurance Reviews
• Jisc Student Insights 2018
Identifying gaps: two approaches

Digital Discovery Tool

Digital capabilities have been identified as one of the most important career skills, yet only 41% of UK students feel their courses prepare them for the digital workplace. We’re working to make sure our students have the digital capabilities they need.

Jisc’s Digital Discovery Tool allows you to self-assess your own digital capabilities and provides a personalised report with suggestions for next steps and online resources to develop your skills.

The University will use the anonymised aggregate results of these assessments to improve our support for digital skills.

The self-assessment takes 15-20 minutes to complete – select the University of Nottingham from the dropdown and log in with your University username and password:

jisc_potential.ly

*Digital experience insights survey 2018: findings from students in UK further and higher education*

Alumni Survey

Did your degree prepare you for a digital world, CARO?

70% of university students think digital skills will be important for their chosen career, yet only 41% believe their courses prepare them for a digital workplace.

At the University of Nottingham, we want our students to have the best possible educational experience. Earlier this year, we committed to improving our courses to enable students to gain the digital skills they need for graduate employment.

To help us develop the best possible digital education, we want to hear from recent graduates like you. What skills did you need when you started work? Are there key areas that you think should have been part of your degree?
Data #1 Current students’ levels of digital capability (DDT)
Data #2 Alumni digital capabilities: importance vs extent

- Very important to job
- Developed to a great extent on course

Percentage of respondents

- ICT proficiency
- Information literacy
- Data literacy
- ICT productivity
- Digital research and problem-solving
- Digital communication
- Media literacy
- Digital collaboration
- Digital learning
- Digital innovation
- Digital wellbeing
- Digital creation
- Digital participation
- Digital teaching
- Digital identity management
Alumni digital capabilities

Headlines

• The international office is a Microsoft Office and employers expect our graduates to be able to use it on starting employment

• Next popular set of digital tools used by our alumni are those used for coding and programming

• In terms of what would have better prepared our alumni for the workplace, responses coded under ‘data literacy’ were the most frequent, including use of MS Excel

• Digital communication and digital creation were also frequently cited as needing additional support at University

• Digital creation is the digital capability alumni think will be most needed in the next five years but data literacy, digital communication and digital innovation also featured significantly in the responses
Progress and next steps

- Consultation with all 27 Schools
- 16 evidence-driven recommendations
- In curricula, co-curricular, infrastructure, governance
- Teaching and Learning Committee endorsement and new TLC sub-group
- Prioritisation process with 10 criteria
- ‘The Reality of the Digital Workplace’ video
- Staff digital capabilities
- Jisc Insights at UoN

Student Digital Capabilities
Filling gaps in the provision of support: recommendations to Teaching and Learning Committee

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Discussion

• How are you defining the digital capabilities your staff and students will need for the workplace?
• Are you defining priorities for digital capabilities for staff/students?
• How and when are these discussions happening with staff and students?
• What ideas have you taken from todays session to inform the building of digital capability for your staff and students?
Looking to the future?

Digital

- Adaptability
- Resilience
- Curiosity
- Confidence
- Partnerships
Community of Practice

• Launched in May 2017 and runs twice yearly
• More than 100 participants from across Further and Higher Education
• Next event – 21st May at the University of Northampton
• Join our Community of Practice mailing list: jiscmail.ac.uk/jisc-digcap-ug

More details: digitalcapability.jisc.ac.uk/our-service/community-of-practice

‘Valuable for inspiring new ideas and making new contacts, for sharing resources.’
Digital wellbeing

• Download our new digital wellbeing briefing papers: https://digitalcapability.jisc.ac.uk/what-is-digital-capability/digital-wellbeing/

• Join our mailing list: jiscmail.ac.uk/JISC-DIGITALWELLBEING

• Follow our blog: digitalcapability.jiscinvolve.org
Thank you

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