

PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM



TO: Participants

Plain Language Statement

Date: October 2017

Full Project Title: Exploring Digital Literacy

Principal Researcher: Associate Professor Jo Coldwell-Neilson

You are receiving this communication as you are known to me, or someone who does know me has forwarded this invitation to you on my behalf.

This project is part of a multi-stage program which continues my ALT (formerly OLT) Fellowship, the aim of which is to lead change by developing a digital literacy benchmark for students entering and graduating from Australian HE providing the foundation to:

- extend and enhance digital competencies within the context of a discipline;
- align graduate capabilities with government recommendations; and
- improve student employability.

This research is being funded by the Australian Government National Teaching Fellowship FS16-0269.

In previous stages of this program, conversation was initiated to refine a cross-disciplinary understanding of digital literacy based on the literature and the outcomes of workshops which were conducted with academic staff. An understanding of the required elements of a digital literacy framework to underpin this understanding and inform digital literacy skills development through the curriculum is currently being developed, but needs to be informed by the current expectations of higher education institutions in Australia.

Expanding on the outcomes achieved thus far, the aims of this project are two-fold:

1. to explore academic staff self-perceptions of their digital literacy capabilities, and
2. to identify academic staff expectations of their students digital literacy skills on entry into an higher education institutions.

The outcomes of this survey will inform the development of a digital literacy framework and benchmark.

The data collected will provide insights into the research questions which are:

RQ1: How do staff perceive their digital literacy capacity?

RQ2: How do staff perceive their preparedness to teach in a technology enhanced environment?

RQ3: What are staff perceptions of students' preparedness to learn in a technology enhanced environment?

Your involvement, if you chose to participate, entails completing an online survey which should take

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approximately 15 minutes to complete. Questions relate to which digital technologies you use, your digital skills and capabilities, your practices in the digital environment and your expectations of the digital skills of the students you teach. The data being collected is non-identifiable and participation is voluntary and anonymous. Your consent to participate is implied through completion of the survey. You can withdraw from the research at any time while you are completing the survey simply by closing the web-page. However, once the survey has been completed it is not possible to withdraw your data as it is an anonymous survey.

The outcomes of this research will be reported through journal and conference publications, seminars, and ultimately, the Fellowship final report to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. Information about the activities, resources and outcomes of this research will also be made available via my Fellowship website at <http://www.decodingdigitalliteracy.org>.

I am the only researcher involved in this project. As such I am responsible for the timely completion of the fellowship in an ethical manner. I will be monitoring the progress of the survey regularly, and will be aware of any problems as they occur. I will resolve these on an as needs basis depending on the circumstances. I anticipate that the most likely risk is in relation to using an online tool. Regular backups of data collected to date will be made to ensure that in the event of an adverse event, this is not lost.

If you wish to find out more about the study please feel free to contact me:

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Approval to undertake this research project has been given by the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Built Environment, Human Ethics Advisory Group (HEAG), Deakin University.

The survey can be accessed at
https://deakinsurveys.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eb5xwwkkVhAeou1.

Complaints

If you have any complaints about any aspect of the project, the way it is being conducted or any questions about your rights as a research participant, then you may contact:

The Human Research Ethics Office, Deakin University, 221 Burwood Highway, Burwood Victoria 3125,
Telephone: 9251 7129, research-ethics@deakin.edu.au

Please quote project number STEC-56-2017-COLDWELL-NEILSON.