Fellow Profile

Associate Professor Jo Coldwell-Neilson
Deakin University

Jo’s research and teaching focuses on engaging students in and with technology, digital technology uptake in education, and students’ engagement with Career Development Learning and WIL. Jo is currently Associate Dean (T&L) in the Faculty of SEBE.

Fellowship title: Unlocking the code to digital literacy

Expected Completion Date: end-2019

Expertise key words: digital literacy, teaching and learning,

What will you achieve?: I have developed a universal understanding of digital literacy and am developing a model that underpins this. I am exploring the digital skills that university students bring to their studies and the skills that academics expect students to have. There is a significant mismatch of expectations, which needs to be addressed by Universities by contextualising and scaffolding digital literacy learning within curricula.

My digital literacy model is being piloted at Deakin University through the development of a framework to guide the inclusion of relevant digital literacy capabilities within curricula. The framework describes skills and capabilities for each element of the model in the context of AQF levels 7–10. I will also develop a benchmark, which defines foundation digital skills expected of students and provides the basis for scaffolding digital literacy learning.

My research has sparked interest in digital literacy at national and international levels, which I hope will continue and develop once the final Fellowship report is published at the end of 2019. My aim is to support appropriate digital literacy development in higher education curricula, thus ensuring future graduates are adequately prepared to engage with the digitally enhanced and disrupted world of Industry 4.0.

What does the sector need now?: There is a need for a universal understanding of digital literacy underpinned by a framework that, when contextulised, captures skills and capabilities that make up digital literacy.