



Issue 1, September 2008

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What is e-learning?

The term e-learning means very different things to different people. If you are looking to find out more about the different types of e-learning, a good place to start is the Australian Flexible Learning Framework's Designing E-learning site at:
<http://designing.flexiblelearning.net.au/>

It outlines a range of types of e-learning, including blended learning, use of virtual classrooms and web in the classroom, all very prevalent in ACE delivery. There are many exemplars and a comprehensive list of tools and strategies.

E-learning in ACE- what is happening in your region?

Welcome to the first edition of the ACFE e-newsletter. The aim of the newsletter is to keep you up to date with e-learning activities in ACE, both on a state and national level, particularly as technology is increasingly becoming an important tool in providing greater access to and flexibility in educational options for hard to reach learner groups.

The newsletter will also inform you of PD opportunities both online and face-to face, available from September to November as part of the ementor project's networking activities.

ACFE Vic Government e- learning grants

For the past 7 years LearnScope has been a significant source of professional development funding for ACE practitioners and has had a tremendous impact on capacity building in ACE. 2007 saw the last of the LearnScope professional development funded activities in the State. In 2008 the LearnScope funding has been replaced with an e-learning grant.

This year the project has worked with regional offices to appoint an ementor in each ACFE region. The ementors are working with interested organisations to develop a business plan for e-learning in their organisation.

Each organisation is developing a small work based project which will help them select and match the vast range of available e-learning tools with their particular learner- and business needs.

There are currently in excess of 50 organisations participating in the project.

If you would like to find out more about the activities in your region, visit our online meeting place, the ementor wiki at :
<http://ementors.acfe.vic.edu.au/home>. You will find a link to your region on the home page.

AccessACE – what happens now?

You may also be familiar with the very successful AccessACE blended learning project that was conducted in 2007. The report, as well as recommendations for embedding e-learning in ACE delivery were presented to the Board earlier this year. The Board has signed off on stage 2 of the project, and it is anticipated that this stage will involve research activities based on the very successful Circles of Professional Practice model.

If you would like a copy of the report, entitled *AccessACE : clever uses of ICT in ACE*, please contact SMR ACFE region (contact details below), or you can download a copy at :
<http://accessacereport.acfe.vic.edu.au/>



Tools, technologies and professional development activities

What is a Virtual Classroom?

A Virtual Classroom is private online space that teachers and managers can use for online meetings and to support student learning. It is accessible via the Internet, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Features

According to the *Designing E-learning* website, some of its most powerful features are :

- It usually includes live audio and text communication between trainers and learners. Participants use headsets to communicate through audio
- It can include graphic material like PowerPoint slides which is broadcast to all participants.
- It can include the running of polls to gain input or feedback from them
- Enables trainers control of the microphone or “first in best voiced” settings depending on formality of session
- The presenter shares an application (e.g. Word or Excel) running on their desktop so that the group can work together on a document or other resource.
- The presenter can often hand over application sharing to another member of the group
- May include a shared whiteboard space for text and drawing
- The presenter and participants can co-browse the Web and conduct web tours.

How can you get access?

ACE organisations across Victoria have access to **Live Classroom**.

http://www.tafevc.com.au/tafevc3/product_liveclassroom.htm

If you would like to book a room, contact Kathy Jagan at : kathy.jagan@dpced.vic.gov.au

To book in for PD

Please also contact Kathy if you would like to book in for any of the PD sessions outlined below. Just put the name of the session in your email subject line.

Kathy and your regional ementor will send out more information closer to the time. Or, visit the ementor wiki at: <http://ementors.acfe.vic.edu.au/home>.

E-learning network PD sessions using a virtual classroom

Below is a proposed timetable of online professional development activities planned for term four. These sessions will be delivered by our regional ementors. They are free and as they are online you can participate from the comfort of your own office chair!

Date and time	Session title	Presenter
15 Sept: 10 – 11.30	Wikis in education in ACE	Lynne Gibb
1 October : 10 – 11.30	Podcasting: developing training resources for delivery through web pages.	Michael Gwyther
8 October: 10 – 11.30	Using Camstudio to create short videos. Camstudio is free open source software, relatively easy to use.	Paul MCSherry
13 October: 10 – 11.30	Wikis : your questions answered. A look at the more technical aspects of wikis.	Lynne Gibb
22 October: 2 – 3.30	Putting e-learning on the map; a planning tool for managers	Carole McCulloch
27 October: 2 – 3.30	Using Moodle in ACE	Sarah Philips
5 November: 10 – 11.30	Moving your face to face course online: some tips and tricks	Mary Schooneveldt
10 November: 10 -11.30	Three good reasons for using Blogs as your website	Paddy o' Reilly
19 November: 10 – 11.30	Second Life: is there a place for it in ACE?	Glenda McPherson
24 November: 10-11.30	Creating community with social software using Ning	Josie Rose