

Writing Open Learning Materials

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Abstract

This workshop invites participants to plan and create a successful learning design by looking at various design options, setting up a working template, writing good learning objectives, handling style and content, using feedback and assessment, piloting and production methods.

The workshop is equally suitable for on-line or paper-based learning materials and will include some samples to provide ideas.

Key words

On-line learning, distance education

Supporting Learners on-line: A Practical Approach

This lecture will contribute to the current debate about the development of effective e-learning strategies with an overview of some current developments, and by giving some answers to the following questions:

- How can we utilise the opportunities offered by on-line developments, whilst retaining the strengths of traditional best teaching practice?
- How can we introduce our learners to the benefits of on-line learning and help them overcome difficulties during the course?
- How can we develop collaborative networks between learners?
- How can we develop teaching staff to write materials suitable for the on-line environment - and are some subjects more suitable for on-line delivery than others?
- How can tutors utilise their teaching experience to maximise their contribution the learning process of distant students?
- How can we integrate the practicalities of teaching and learning into our overall strategy for the future?

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Judith Warren has been involved with open and flexible learning for twenty years. She has expertise in all aspects of flexible learning, including creating bespoke learning materials, training trainers, setting up learning centres, electronic delivery of learning materials and supporting learners on-line.

Prior to launching Ellerton Training Services in Edinburgh 10 years ago, she was employed in an Edinburgh College as biochemistry lecturer teaching young people and adults. She also managed the College's large flexible learning programme for students throughout the world.

Judith is one of the Directors of the British Association of Open Learning (BAOL), the UK organisation dedicated to best practice in open and flexible learning, and a member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

Her organisation, Ellerton Training Services, specialises in flexible learning developments and learning materials design for private businesses and public sector organisations. We are accredited as a Qualified Supplier of open learning materials to the University for Industry (Ufi) in England and Wales and are an Individual Learning Account Centre for Learndirect, the new UK impetus to promote learning. We are also an accredited centre for management development qualifications and the Scottish distributor for a selected range of paper-based and CD-ROM learning materials.