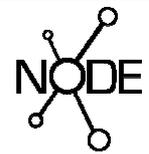


TechNODE - an overview



The NODE project

The Networking Online to Diversify Engagement (NODE) Project was initially funded in 2006 by the Registrar's Initiative fund. The project consisted of two key elements: 'node.live'; an online social network for UWA students (www.node.uwa.edu.au) and the annual student ICT survey which started in 2006-07. The project was initiated by Dr. Lisa Cluett and Dr Judy Skene of Student Services and has been continued as part of the CLTPF-funded Online Student Journey Project since 2008.

The node.live online community was developed using Drupal in collaboration with the UWA WebOffice and allowed UWA users (staff and enrolled students) to write a blog, host a wiki and contribute to discussion boards. In mid-2009 the in-house node.live community became unsustainable in the face of popular social networks and was therefore relocated to Facebook at www.facebook.com/UWastudents.

The survey has been run annually since the NODE project began with the 4th iteration open during the summer of 2009-10. The cohort consists of first year undergraduate students that have completed at least half the credit points required to pass their First Year. Results of the 2006-07 survey are available in a full report. Since 2009, survey findings have been published in a condensed format called the 'TechNODE bulletins'.

Evolution of the survey

The original (2006-07) survey established 3 areas of interest. First Year UWA students':

- access to;
- experience with, and
- expectations of ICT

This first survey contained 37 questions and has been written up in the report available [here](#).

The 2007-08 and 2008-09 surveys included an added focus on ICT and student learning following input from CATL and the University library. Facebook was added as a new tool.

The 2009-10 survey added questions about Facebook groups, Twitter, Google Wave, Google apps and virtual worlds. A series of questions about SISO and the computing facilities provided on campus were also added following input from ITS and the UWA staff Web 2.0 Community Group. Some questions on printing, email accounts and web browsing were removed to streamline the survey instrument.

~~~~~  
Use of the term 'staff.node' commenced in mid 2009 with the introduction of the forum site for UWA staff (at <http://staff.node.uwa.edu.au/>). Shared use of the NODE acronym reflects our partnership with the UWA WebOffice and a joint commitment to online engagement.

The work of the NODE project has been conducted within the context of similar work occurring in Australia and overseas including:

### Curtin University

- Oliver, B. and Goerke, V. (2007) Australian undergraduates' use and ownership of emerging technologies: Implications and opportunities for creating engaging learning experiences for the Net Generation. *Australasian Journal of Educational Technology* 23(2), 171-186

### Joint information services committee (UK)

- JISC (2007a) Student Expectations Study: Key findings from online research and discussion evenings held in June 2007 for the Joint Information Systems Committee.

### University of Melbourne

- Kennedy, G.E., Judd, T.S., Churchward, A., Gray, K. & Krause, K-L (2008) First year students' experiences with technology: Are they really digital natives? *Australasian Journal of Educational Technology* 24(1), 108-122.

### Educause Centre for Applied Research (US)

- ECAR (2007) "The ECAR Study of Undergraduate Students and Information Technology", 2007.

### ALTC

- University of Melbourne, Wollongong and Charles Sturt's Educating the net generation: Implications for learning and teaching in Australian universities.

## NODE in the future

The TechNODE bulletin 2010 will be released in April/May providing a summary of the findings from the 2009-10 student survey. In November 2010, the 2010-11 survey will be emailed to students who have completed at least half the credits required to pass first year. If you would like to view the survey instrument, raw data or have ideas for the next survey then please contact Dr. Lisa Cluett (details below).

### Related publications

Cluett, L.J. & Skene, J. (2010) The student-learning student-engagement nexus: how can non-teaching areas of the University use Web 2.0 tools to enhance the student experience? Chapter in Lee, M.J.W. & McLoughlin, C. (Eds) 'Web 2.0 is here: Applying Social Informatics for Tertiary Teaching'

Cluett, L.J. (2009) Training professional staff in Web 2.0 – a program developed by UWA Student Services via the 'Online Student Journey' project. Paper presented at the Australian Tertiary Education Management - Student Services Centre Conference, held in Fremantle, WA 23-24 April 2009.

Skene, J., Cluett, L. (2008) 'If you build it, they will come' : The challenges of developing a social networking site in a university context. Paper presented at the First Year in Higher Education Conference, Hobart, Australia, 30th June - 2nd July 2008.

Cluett, L., Skene, J. & Hogan, J. (2007) The NODE Summary Report: Findings of a 2006-07 survey into UWA students' experiences with, access to and expectations of ICT.

Cluett, L.J. & Skene, J. (2007) NODE – a showcase, non-refereed presentation at the Learning Futures Forum, Canberra, 10th – 11th September 2007

Skene, J., Cluett, L. & Hogan, J. (2007) Engaging Gen Y students at university: what web tools do they have, how do they use them and what do they want? Paper presented at the First Year in Higher Education conference, Brisbane, Australia, 3rd-6th July 2007.

Cluett, L.J. & Skene, J. (2007) *A new(er) dimension to online learning communities: using web tools to engage students*. Paper presented at the Teaching & Learning Forum 30-31st January 2007, The University of Western Australia.

Cluett, L., Hogan, J. & Skene, J. (2007) *Catching up with our students: Using web tools to create communities*. Workshop presented at the Teaching & Learning Forum 30-31st January 2007, The University of Western Australia.

### Other useful resources

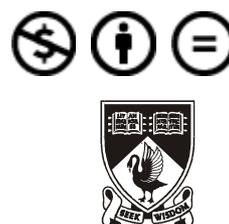
- TechNODE bulletin 2009 summarises the findings of the 2008-09 NODE survey
- Full report for the 2006-07 survey is available online
- NODE project webpage (via <http://tiny.cc/9uREu>) containing all project documents and contact information

### Using this bulletin

Cluett, L.J. & Skene, J. (2009) TechNODE—an overview: the background, evolution and future plans of the NODE project at The University of Western Australia. Available from: [\[http://tiny.cc/9uREu\]](http://tiny.cc/9uREu)

### Contact

Web: Online Student Journey project page: <http://tiny.cc/9uREu>  
Email: [lisa.cluett@uwa.edu.au](mailto:lisa.cluett@uwa.edu.au)



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA