

Abstract

Within the education world the flipped classroom has been embraced as a way to encourage teachers and students to break out of old moulds and develop creative, active, learning environments in which to build skills and knowledge. By changing up traditional teaching process and focussing on collaborative learning supported by prior knowledge, understanding and retention of skills improves. Real life applications for expertise emerge. Learning grows, is shared, and provides the foundation for more learning success.

For the formal qualification of Library Technicians the flipped learning is an ideal approach, particularly with the recent introduction of a new training package for Library and Information Services, and the preceding review of competencies required in the workplace. New students in the library and information industry will be taught to develop a different personal learning style. This will see them quickly gathering background information for problem solving then arming themselves with this in the places where real learning happens; sharing with colleagues, working through issues in a practical way, acquiring skills by doing not watching.

For those already in the workforce, adopting a flipped approach to ongoing professional development is equally exciting. It enables us to move from simply learning a skillset, to looking more deeply into how those competencies can be applied in a workplace environment and what benefits will emerge for customers, the organisation and the Library Technician themselves. As our roles, skills and workplaces continue to change so too must our techniques for responding to ongoing learning needs. PD needs to be a joy not a chore. We need to feel engaged and empowered.

In this presentation Margie will explain the fundamental aspects of flipped learning and how we can use them to shape the way we approach our professional development. She will provide pointers to background resources and discuss practical ways to flip your learning at this symposium, and into the future.