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Developing the Culture of Publication: A joint enterprise

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Rowan Bailey, School of Art, Architecture and Design and
Graham Stone, Library Services

and the Middle East

Opportunity Knocked

- Availability of University Seed Funding
- Team keen to put a toe in the ‘bidding’ water
- ‘Dating’ encouraged leading to collaborative relationships (Arts, Health and Library)
- Shared ‘academy’ issues for applied disciplines
Project background:

- Many students produce excellent work which given support and opportunity would clearly be of a publishable standard
- Supporting the novice author through the publication:
  - Employability & career development, research internships and successful awards
- Academic staff are expected to produce publications as a part of their career development
- Lack of focused time to think and concentrate on outputs remains a recurring complaint

Aims & Objectives

To test a "writing retreat" workshop model across a range of applied disciplines to convert high quality student projects into co-produced publications and establish a community of scholarly practice:

- To provide structured, expert support, constructive criticism and guidance on writing and publication preparation
- To introduce strategies for planning outputs
- To provide a collaborative and peer supportive environment with expert review for co-production
- To understand different ways of publishing and disseminating for different target audiences and impacts

Key Activities

- TALI funding approved: July 2012
- Advertising & Launch sessions: December 2012
- Application closing date: January 2013
- Pre-writing workshop: March 2013
- Writing workshop: June 2013
- Dissemination event/conference: December 2013

Recruitment

- Student/supervisors applied as a team
- Applications indicate the contribution their proposed publication would make, and why it might be of interest to a publisher
- Selection criteria will be developed to include quality of the original project activity, and articulation of contribution, or novelty, and will be judged by the project team
- Twelve pairs were selected
Preparation event

To understand different ways of publishing and disseminating for different target audiences and impacts:

Day 1:
• Project information, participation & evaluation
• Team building and networks
• Target journals, authors guidance, publication structures
• Alternative publications and open access
• Preparation/action planning

The retreat

Day 2 & 3
• Writing
• ‘Ask the Editor’ panel
• Evening dinner – guest speaker
• Writing!
• Working intensively to convert high quality student projects into co-produced/co-authored publications
• Guidance from experienced ‘writers’

The Evaluation

- Ethical approval
  - Informed consent etc.
- Kirkpatrick (2006)
  - Reaction
  - Learning
  - Changes in Behaviour
  - Real world results
- Action plans
- Questionnaire
- Interviews/De-briefing sessions
- Outcomes

Participants

HUM
- Seven groups
  • 4 x Doctoral
  • 2 x Masters
  • 1 x BSc

AD&A
- Four groups
  • 1 x BSc
  • 3 x Doctoral

Summary:
• 8 PGR students/2 UG 1 PGT
• 7 FT & 4 PT students
**Reaction**
- Opportunity to showcase their work
- Insight into the ‘how’ of the publication process ...
- Is my work good enough?
- Structure and expert support - Constructive feedback
- Time away from every day obligations and distractions to writing from everyday workload
- Peer support
- Honoured and valued to be selected

**Learning**
- It's a brilliant opportunity to really knuckle down and produce some work
- Inspirational environment
- Flexibility
- Productivity
- Written community
- Time goes quicker ...
- ‘...feel the buzz’
- ‘It’s a bit like working in a classroom again, you sort of feel obliged to keep working because everyone else is ...
- ‘Time goes quicker ... I feel like I have the energy to just carry on writing’
- ‘Funnily enough it wasn’t long enough, I hadn’t run out of battery ... we could have kept going

**Changes in Behaviour**
- Relationship dynamics
  - Co-production
  - Joint contribution
  - Joint reward – co-authorship
- Mutual shared exchange of skills
- Confidence building
- Everyone has the potential skills and ability to achieve their goals

**Dissemination event**
- Day 4:
  - Opportunity to showcase and reflect on experience and involvement throughout their time on the project
  - Results - Qualitative data overwhelmingly positive
  - Four papers submitted
  - Three papers ready to submit in follow few weeks (1 x English and 1 x Mandarin)
  - Three groups had made significant progression although not ready to submit but still planned to do so
  - Three had not moved any further forward – 1 job and 2 final year PhD
Discussion

- Positive overall experience for all involved
- Contributed to the development of enabling a culture that embeds publication as an outcome
- Students and staff confidence and ability to write
- Initially not know if mixed disciplines would have the same requirements however common cross discipline issues were found and the collaborative research practices proved successful
- Writing retreats support self belief and increased confidence most evident in progression shown at the dissemination event

What next

- On-going funding phase 2
- Same writing retreat model and evaluation
  - SHUM: Target group – PGT Health studies
  - AD&A: curriculum strategies
- Project publication

Real world results

- Ingrid’s Story

Thank you for listening

Any questions?