2024 Showcase 2 – Abstract

Engagement Through Interactivity: The H5P Activity Library as an Innovative Resource for Academics and Students in the Discipline of Law

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Research has shown that for students to achieve academic success in an online learning environment, engagement with online study materials is crucial (Kahu et al., 2013; Kuh, 2009; Shelton et al., 2017). Engagement in this context has been broadly defined as "the energy and effort that students employ within their learning community" (Bond et al., 2020, p. 3). In a recent 2022 study Goode et al. found that accessing interactive content in an immersive learning model had a significant positive impact on academic achievement, and could predict higher final marks (Goode et al., p. 85). Students, in their written feedback on their units of study, consistently valued interactivity and media-richness very highly, linking it to engagement and enjoyment as well as success (p. 87). Students also valued flexible self-access and responsiveness (p. 87). The findings of this study are corroborated by other studies which demonstrate that students value and learn effectively from meaningful online learning materials that are interactive (Clark & Post, 2021; Sugden et al., 2021).

To date, very little research has been published showcasing interactive online learning materials in the field of Law. As Teaching Scholars within the SCU Discipline of Law we have prioritised the development of "media-rich, flexible, self-accessible and responsive" interactive learning materials as a major step toward enhancing the Southern Cross Model. Together with Educational Designers Fiona Stroud and Ashleigh Filipe, we have developed an innovative "library" of more than 50 interactive H5P law activities. The purposes of this library are(a) to improve law academics' abilities to prepare state-of-the-art, law-specific, interactive module materials; and (b) to improve overall online student engagement and student academic outcomes through meaningful interactivity.

In our presentation we will briefly outline the purpose of the library, explain how it works, and showcase an example activity. We will also recommend that other disciplines at SCU consider developing a similar resource.