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Innovation, Openness and Co-creation in an Active Learning Environment

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1. Context
2. Digilab
3. Skills delivery
4. Open course delivery
5. Sharing experience

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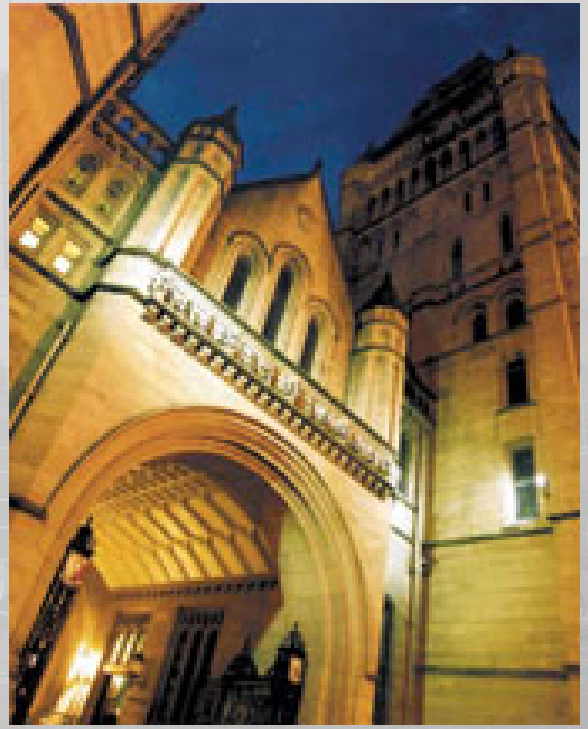
The Manchester context

The University

- Largest single site University in the UK
- Largest student community in the UK (40K+)
- Strong history of innovation embedded in culture
- Ambitious strategy to be one of the world's leading Universities by 2020
- 3 core goals:
  - World Class Research
  - Outstanding Teaching & Learning
  - Social Responsibility



The Manchester context

The Library Strategy

"What matters now is our ability to manage continuing demand for the things that once wholly defined us, while moving rapidly and at scale into the broader range of products, services and skills demanded by our researchers and students"

"This strategy is the next phase in the continual reinvention of the UML to suit changing demands…"

Jan Wilkinson, University Librarian.

The University of Manchester Library Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

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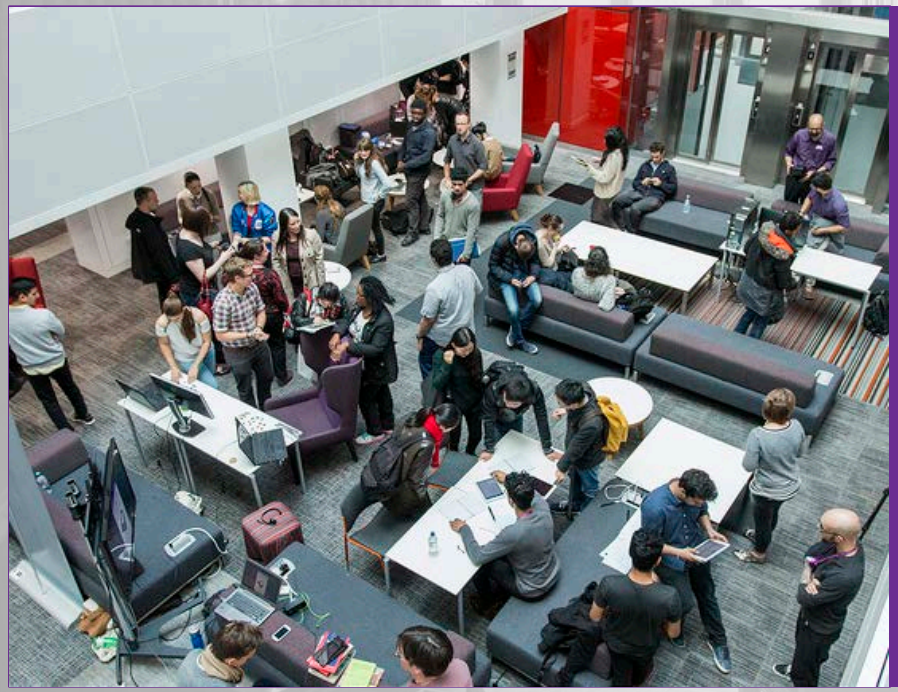
DigiLab: What is it?



Democratising technology by enabling students and staff to explore virtual, augmented and mixed reality, learn to code, experiment with 3D printing and develop cutting-edge digital skills.

DigiLab Video

@uomdigilab

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DigiLab: Activities

Events

- 4 per year
- Open to all students and staff
- Demonstrations from DigiLab's collection, student and staff projects and external businesses

Workshops

- Open to all staff and students
- An opportunity to learn and develop new skills
- February 2017 DigiLab Code Club began

One off Activities

- DigiLab collaborates with faculties such as Arts Languages and Cultures and Medicine
- Loan of equipment to researchers and other staff
- Events to help publicise DigiLab's activities

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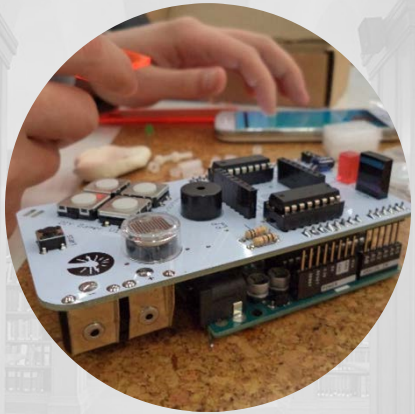
DigiLab: Events

DigiLab Collection

VR equipment such as Oculus Rift and Wizdish Rovr
3D printer
Hololens
RaspberryPi's



External Demonstrators

Games companies
Local and national tech companies
VR developers
Freelance technologists

University Demonstrators

PhD researchers

Student projects

Staff projects

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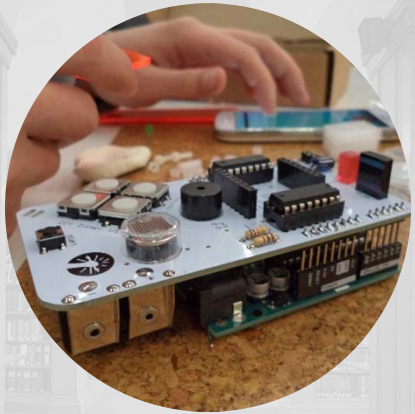
DigiLab: Workshops

Code Club

Weekly facilitated workshops for staff and students to learn to code, or build on skills they already have.



Hardware workshops

An opportunity for students to learn how to program hardware such as Arduinos

3D Printing

In conjunction with 3D printing start up 3Dicey – alumni of the University.

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DigiLab: One-off Events

Education Student sessions

- Access to technology used in education
- Encourages open discussion around technology in Education

Manchester GRADSchool Sessions

- Focus on team work
- Allows students to work collaboratively and learn about others' styles
- Less awkward than usual icebreakers!

Supporting Museology Students

- Pioneering student project in collabotration with Manchester Museum
- Currently in its second year

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DigiLab: Feedback

Event feedback

"It's a great chance to try things I wouldn't usually be able to."

Code Club staff were priceless, they were friendly and extremely helpful. Throughout any of our issues, they would help us, and further our knowledge. I learnt a lot from the staff.

Code Club student feedback

96%

Attendees said they Learned something new at a DigiLab event in 2016/17

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Blackboard CATALYST AWARD WINNER

The University of Manchester Library

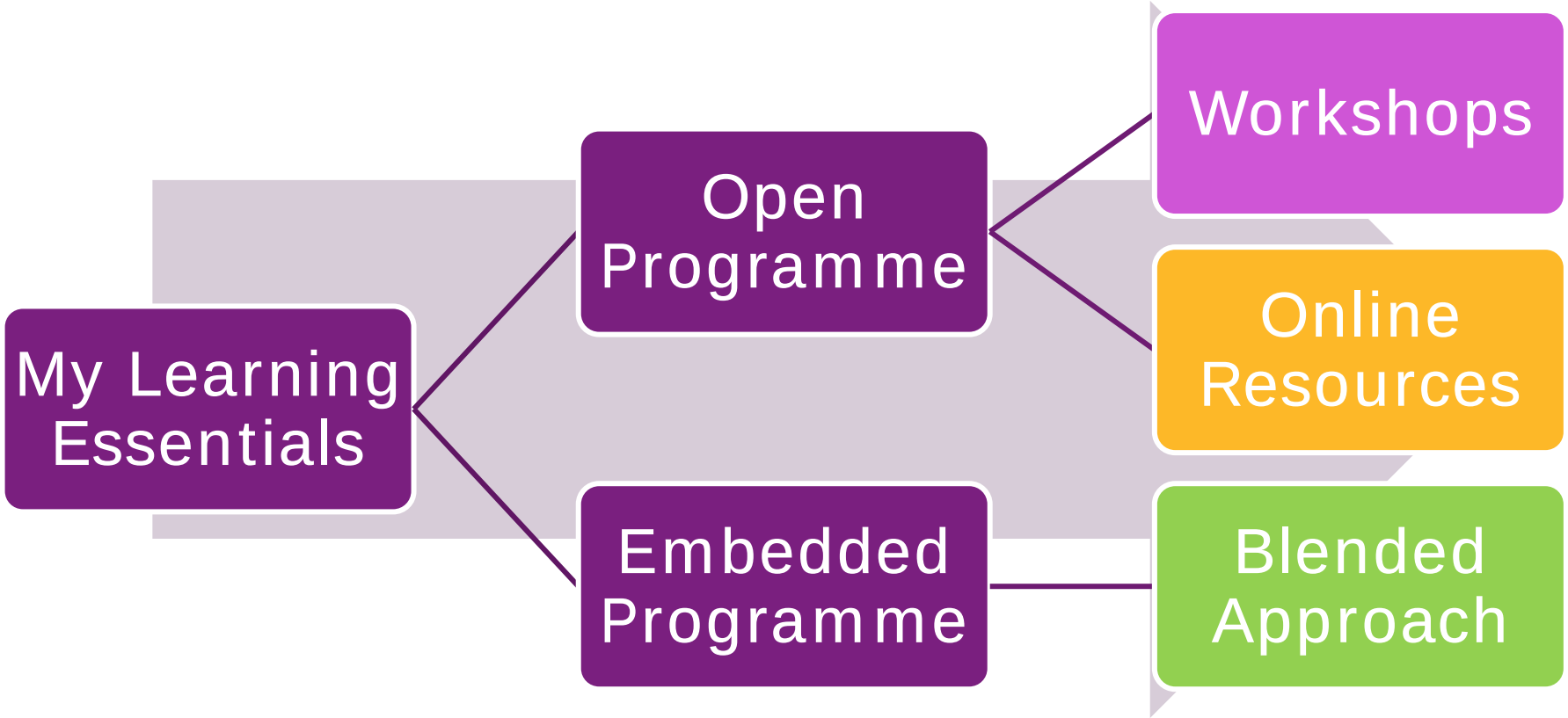
My Learning Essentials

The Library's award winning skills programme

www.manchester.ac.uk/my-learning-essentials

@mlemanchester

Programme Structure



MLE coverage

Start to finish: Essay writing

With a little help from My Learning Essentials

Online resources:

- Get a grip: understanding your task
- What's the big idea: developing your argument
- Original thinking allowed: avoiding plagiarism
- Never a wasted word: writing your essay
- Better safe than sorry! Proofreading your work

Workshops

- Academic writing: structuring for effective essays
- How to write an effective introduction
- Proofreading: the final stage before submission
- Academic writing: referencing in your writing

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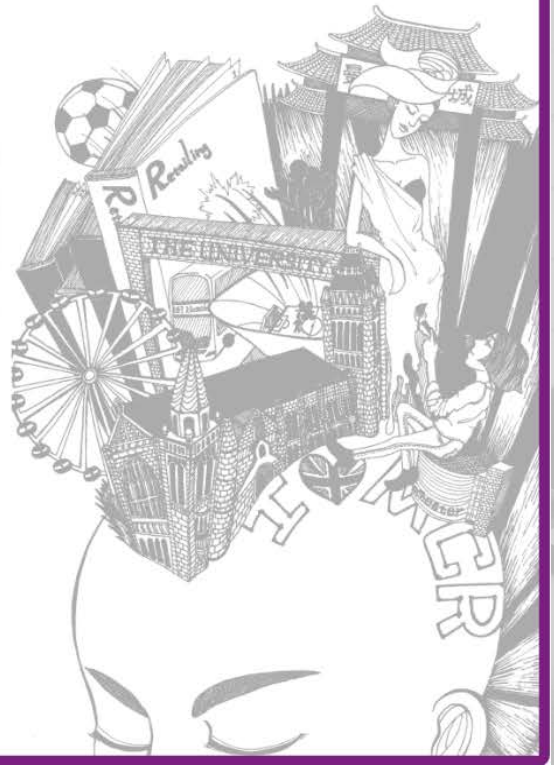
My Learning Essentials

Original thinking allowed:

Avoiding plagiarism

Blackboard CATALYST AWARD WINNER



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Academic writing: structuring for effective essays

We are running this event more than once on the following dates and times:

Tue 17 Apr 2018, 10:00 - 11:30		Find out more
Wed 2 May 2018, 13:30 - 15:00		Find out more
Thu 24 May 2018, 14:00 - 15:30		Find out more

This workshop will focus on the skills and techniques needed to plan, structure and write an effective essay. During the workshop you will discover different techniques you can use to structure each of the key sections within an essay. You will participate in a number of activities that will help you to develop your academic writing skills and write more efficiently and effectively.

Assignments | Exam extra | Organising | Planning | Writing

MLE: Co-creation & partnership

- Facilitative workshop style
- Students
- Academics
- Counselling Service
- Disability Advisory Support Service
- University Language Centre
- Our Student Team

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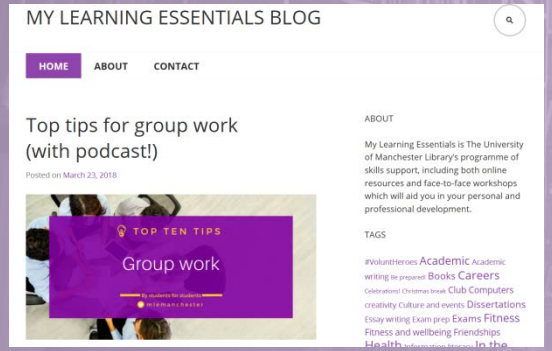
MLE: Openness



- Open to anyone - no login needed
- Online resources all CC-BY-NC
- Source files on JISC App Store
- MLE blog on Wordpress
- Podcasts on Soundcloud
- Workshop plans and other resources all openly shared via Dropbox
- Plans to link all these together in one place under consideration.

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MLE: Reach

- 277 institutions
- 6 continents
- 177 countries
- Wide range of institutions
- Most link direct
- Smaller proportion adapt and remix – harder to track

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Open course content

- UML runs 2 credit bearing course units
- VLE environment felt too “closed”
- Instead we chose to use a more open platform to deliver our courses
- Medium.com – social journalism/ blogging platform

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10-credit unit **open to all undergraduates** on the intersections of ‘digital’ and ‘society’.

Interdisciplinary approach and cohort.

Develop: being critical; collaboration; communicating online; ethical awareness.

medium.com/digital-society

Digital Society

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From the tutors

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Open Knowledge in Higher Education

15-credit taught **option for staff** on the Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education.

Open, flexible approach; broad cohort.

Develop: critical view of open practice in HE, public and online communication, network

medium.com/open-knowledge-in-he

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Benefits of our open approach…

General

- Course content has greater meaning in an open context
- Demonstrates our open values
- The publications add ongoing value to the knowledge base.

Learner specific

- Get real open practice & learn a new skill
- Contribute to a wider community
- Strong sense of content ownership
- Highly engaged

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Sharing Experience: an Activity

padlet.com/katy_woolfenden/FiesoleRetreat2018

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Questions?

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Extra Links

UML Strategic Plan 2018 - 2021
http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/media/services/library/aboutus/Library-Strategy-Document-2018.pdf

Digilab
http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/using-the-library/students/library-it-services/digilab/

My Learning Essentials
MLE blog: mylearningessentials.wordpress.com
MLE Podcasts soundcloud.com/uomlibrary
MLE dropbox http://bit.ly/MLEopen
JISC App Store https://store.jisc.ac.uk/contributor/296