

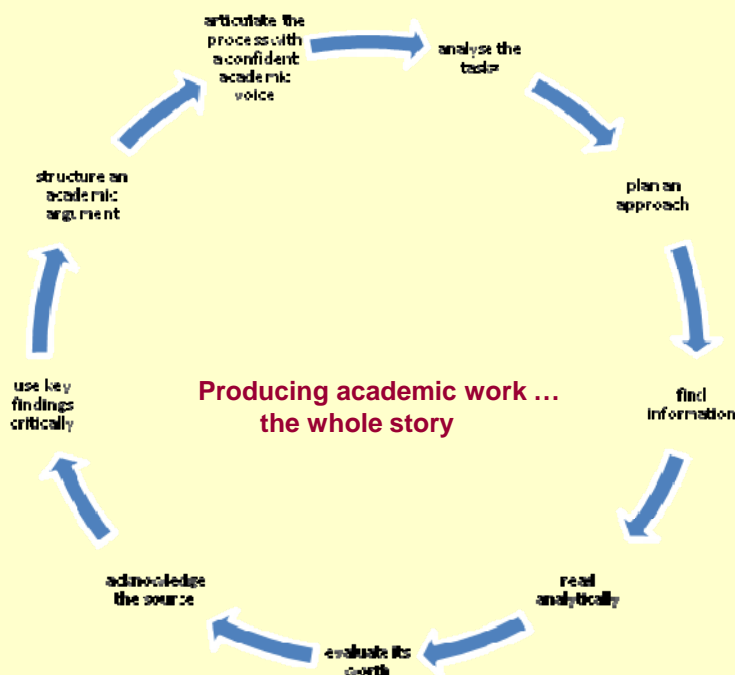
'Learning developers and librarians working together'

Aims / purpose

- To promote the synergy between learning developers and librarians
- To develop collaborative approaches that support student engagement with learning and assessment

Description

- This project looks to further the notion of 'Learning Development' within a whole institutional approach to supporting student learning.
- Together learning developers and librarians can tell students the 'whole story' about engaging in academic tasks,
- It is intended to develop a collaborative approach that will enhance the student learning experience at DMU.
- The focus will be generic activities delivered centrally, bespoke activities provided at the heart of the curriculum, and resources that reflect the coherence of this approach
- It is intended to use Teacher Fellow funds to share the development of this approach with the higher education sector.



Benefits for students

Seamless support for academic assignments:

- Increased confidence in approaching assessment
- Wider research
- More likely to use critical approaches
- Developing an 'academic voice'

Benefits for staff

Contextualised support for assignment tasks
 Efficient use of curriculum time

Benefits for the University

Cost effective use of resources
 Support for students in their transition to and through higher education

Outcomes

- **In March 2008** Mary Pillai (Centre for Learning and Study Support) and Kaye Towlson (Subject Librarian) co-delivered a Round Table Discussion at the Association of Learning Development in Higher Education (ALDHE) national symposium. The focus was '*Encouraging students to research, communicate and have confidence in, their own opinions: the joint role of library services and learning development*'.
- **In June 2008 the Kimberlin Library** hosted a free Open House event for learning developers and librarians across the sector (including Ireland). 30 librarians and 30 learning developers attended. This was a direct outcome from the level of interest produced by the input at the ALDHE Symposium
- **Additionally CLaSS hosted separate visits** from Learning Development staff from Staffordshire University and Birmingham City University
- **Library Services hosted two successful internal events:**
 - **September 2007 - 'Focus on Supporting your Students'** – a joint Library/Student Services event targeting personal tutors. Approximately 60 staff attended.
 - **June 2008 'Developing seamless support for learning – working in partnership with the Library and Student Services'**. Another joint Library/Student Services event, this time focussed on integrating support from librarians, learning developers and Student Services colleagues into the curriculum. Approximately 50 staff attended.
- **In June 2008** the Society of College, National and University Libraries (SCONUL) requested an article on our collaborative work for SCONUL Focus, which is to be published later this year.

What next?

- Surrey University have requested a staff development workshop to be delivered in December 2008
- Subject librarians and CLaSS team will build on this year's activities to further develop
 - shared activities and approaches - delivered centrally
 - Increasingly converged inputs to the curriculum
- Joint Library /Student Services events to be offered annually