Preparing for ‘near-future’ eTextbook technologies

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THE PRESENT

June 2019
ARU Library’s strategic goal – How do we prepare staff for the future workplace and anticipate the skills that will be required?

September 2019
Personalised eTextbooks for level 4 introduced at ARU. The enhanced learning tools and analytics present different opportunities compared to the ‘one-to-many’ library model.

November 2019
Discovered design fiction, a method to inspire discussion around social, ethical and societal implications of future product designs.

The method involves creating fictional artefacts which represent a plausible, future world where these products exist (Stead, Coulton and Lindley, 2018). Discussed how to use the eTextbook theme with design fiction to anticipate how library roles might change.

December 2019
Researched Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies which could be incorporated into eTextbooks over the next 5-10 years. Created 18 design fiction cards (see fig. 1).

THE FUTURE

January 2020
We ran two workshops where our participants wrote fictional narratives about experiences of using near-future eTextbooks (see fig. 2). The idea was to think creatively about how relations with staff and students might change.

April 2020
Applied for University research funding to use design fiction to explore the pedagogical implications of incorporating emerging technologies into learning resources.

2030
eTextbooks incorporate artificial intelligence... how will you adapt?

Workshop feedback (fig. 2)

“"A fun and interactive way to think about the future of libraries that gets you processing ideas in a different way”

“"It was good to be reminded that you are in fact allowed to think in new directions, suggest improbable things, and let your imagination run wild without constraints every now and then, because that’s how innovation happens.”

Reference