

◀ 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).

▶

Two examples of Design fiction cards (fig.1)

Learning 2b
Book text is transformed into machine readable text so search algorithm can process content and retrieve search
Hollingsw

Content 2b

Takes content and AI algorithm rewrites according to your specifications
Allen, 2019

▶ 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

Stead, M. Coulton, P. and Lindley, J., 2018. Do-It-Yourself Medical Devices: Exploring Their Potential Futures Through Design Fiction. *Proceedings of the Design Research Society Conference 2018*, 6. Design Research Society, IRL, pp. 2511-2523