



14/04/2016

## Meeting the needs of all learners: What the research says

#digitalstudent

<http://digitalstudent.jiscinvolve.org>

# How do learners experience the digital environment?



Vocational

Basic skills

Apprenticeships

Recreational

Background

Prior educational/work experience

Achievement

14-90 years old

Full/part-time

Day release

- » Databases
- » Abstracts + proceedings of conferences
- » Journals
- » Websites of organisations
- » Collections of case studies
- » Ofsted reports
- » Institutional documents
- » Individual contacts



- » Problems: access to good laptops, printers and internet connectivity
- » Students want experience with software + hardware that's used in their work places
- » VLE / LMS are NOT redundant - maybe yet to reach their potential
- » Students' technology skills vary widely – even amongst same age groups. We can't take skill levels for granted
- » Lack of student voice in the sector

- » Lack of good equipment + wifi
- » Difficult transporting equipment to venues, blocks on websites at schools, not getting passwords from venue
- » Teachers lack training in how to use technologies + no time to prepare materials / backups
- » Shortage of tutors
- » No uniform skill levels
- » No enthusiasm for MOOCs from learners
- » Little student voice in the literature. But with a wide range of learners, it may be nearly impossible to act on it anyway

- » Restricted access to devices, internet, information and support
- » Limited access even to existing technologies due to competing priorities / philosophies
- » Access to meaningful learning opportunities often decreases as students near release
- » No continuity of learning support after release
- » Need for dedicated technology-enabled learning space
- » Limitations of access, support and quality content, but **Virtual Campus** still has potential
- » Can't take students' digital skills levels for granted, but do not assume the worst

- » Clear need to assess and cater for different digital literacies across the sector
- » Jisc pages on **Developing Digital Literacies** with resources and links is first point-of-call:  
<https://www.Jisc.ac.uk/guides/developing-digital-literacies>)  
together with **Building digital capability service**:  
<https://digitalcapability.jiscinvolve.org/wp/>
- » *"But, learner voice studies...have provided evidence to suggest that the "digital native" is a chimera and that we are all – and always have been –immigrants (digital or otherwise) to any community of practice."* (Roberts 2011)
- » Need to focus on infrastructure and access above more "charismatic" technologies

- » Relatively little quality research in the work-based learning field
- » Little quality research in adult and community learning
- » Some good research into prison learning – Australian examples are relevant to the UK
- » Reports of practice are largely from a teacher's perspective
- » Collections not tagged for learner experience



- » What are your key challenges in supporting your learners' digital experience?
- » Note these down on the flipchart paper
- » Share any solutions or examples of good practice
- » Prepare to feedback the top challenge

