Open Educational Resources (OERS) for Digital Research Skills:
SHARING OUR EXPERIENCE OF BLENDED LEARNING

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This poster presents an innovative digital literacy project, which involved the creation of six e-tutorials supporting the development of students' digital research skills to complement traditional research and information literacy competencies in our undergraduate programmes. Targeting key digital research topics, the e-tutorials blend formats to offer an engaging learning experience.

RATIONALE

- Research competence increasingly viewed as a critical outcome for undergraduate students
- Undergraduates require specific guidance on academic integrity, data management & Internet-based research methods
- Online and blended learning support collaboration, creativity and digital literacy
- Self-paced interactive e-tutorials offer complementary approach to digital research skill development
- OERs/RLOs (open educational resources/reusable learning objects) enable content and expertise sharing between educators
- Flexible mixed-mode learning empowers students to transition from content consumers to content producers and digital leaders
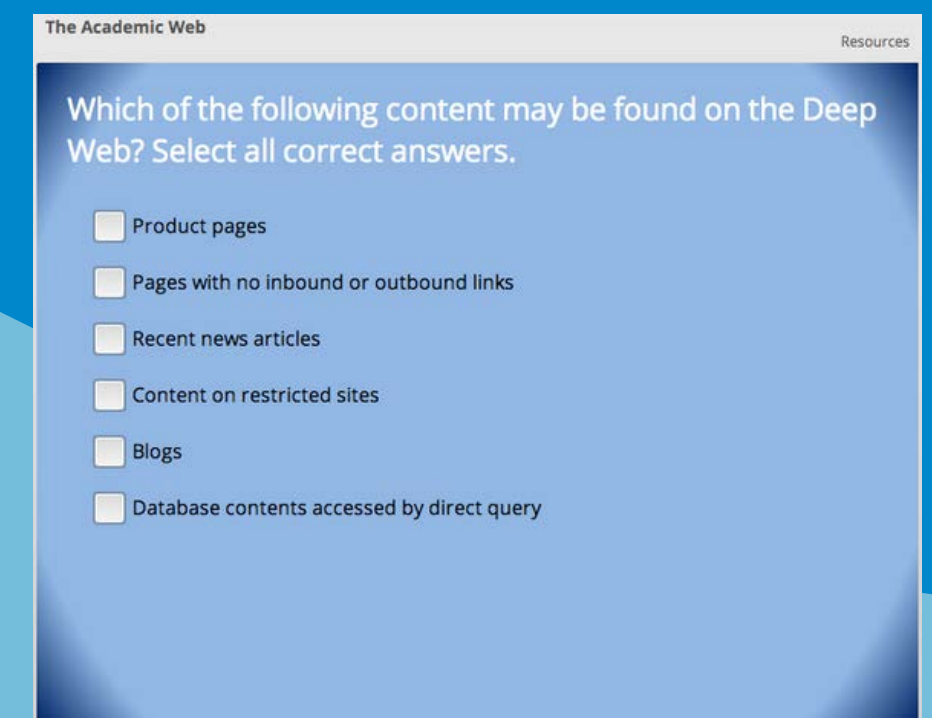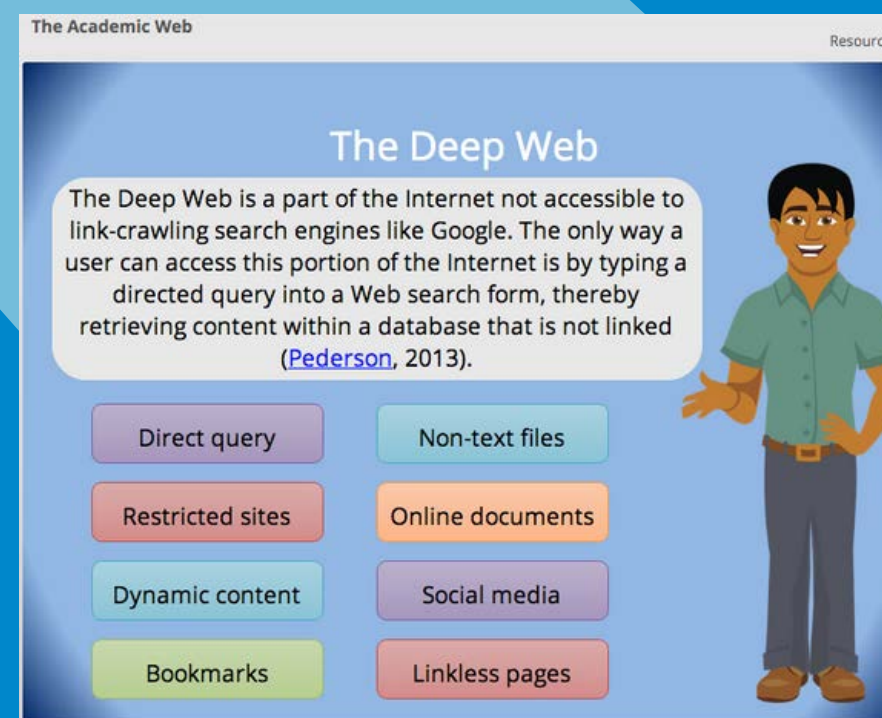
DEVELOPMENT

- Purchased sub to Articulate 360 and hired Research Assistant to create e-tutorials (Feb 2017)
- Created clear learning outcomes for each e-tutorial
- Built content around learning outcomes - content sequences and voiceover scripts developed collaboratively
- 10 item quiz in each e-tutorial (MCQs, Fill-in-the-blanks, and T/F)
- Uploaded SCORM packages to VLE in selected courses
- Created Digital Badges to be awarded on completion

IMPLEMENTATION

- E-tutorials were embedded in VLE for three undergraduate and postgraduate courses, in which digital literacy formed the core learning content
- All e-tutorials were graded for module credit, and each addressed a key aspect of digital research, increasing in difficulty

Sample content from the Understanding Digital Research Ethics e-tutorial

"I was able to understand it better because [I] could repeat the recordings however many times I wanted on my own." -Student quote

E-TUTORIALS

1. Managing Your Research with Web-based Tools
2. Understanding Digital Research Ethics
3. The Academic Web
4. Foundational Social Media Analytics for Research
5. Digital Tools for Managing Research Data
6. Data Visualisation for Novice Researchers

Sample content from the Academic Web e-tutorial

RESULTS

- 86 Student perspectives gathered post-semester via anonymous online survey, and two focus groups
- E-tutorial content was perceived as clear, accessible, easy-to-navigate, & pitched at "about right" level of difficulty
- Disruptive technical glitches underscored the importance of stable platforms and frequent updates
- Students advocated more e-tutorials in their courses
- Students prefer blended learning over online or F2F only

51%
indicated that e-tutorials were first online learning experience

90%
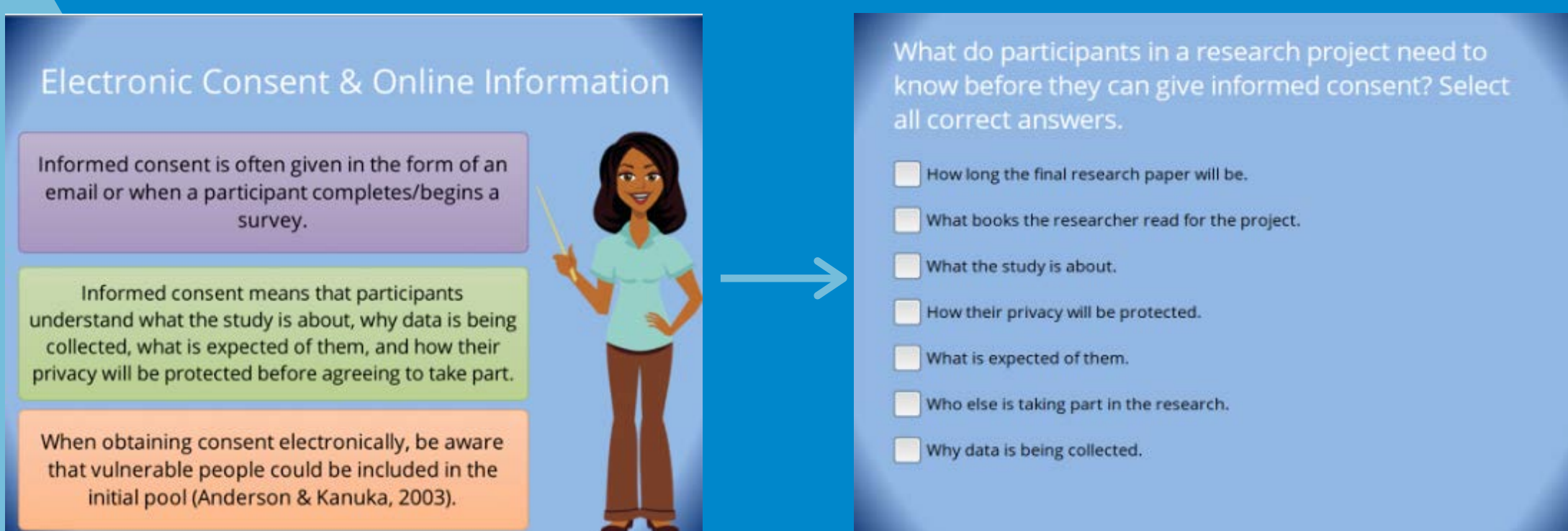self-assessed digital research skills as Good to Excellent

70%
found digital badges motivating

"I'm planning on staying in this school...and hopefully do the Masters, so I'm sure it's going to definitely come in handy along the way... And I think it comes in nearly every subject that you do, really having those skills across the board nowadays." -Student quote

IMPACT

- E-tutorials are available for reuse under Creative Commons and are OERs, free to be shared with librarians and teachers, e.g. embedded in courses or LibGuides
- Project is part of a broader educational mission to promote digital citizenship and responsible student research
- We are happy to send our e-tutorials to conference attendees