Contextualised Learning for Student Success

Supporting the educational attainment of students from traditionally underserved backgrounds

High-quality Open Educational Resources (OERs) have the power to transform education by:

$ decreasing financial barriers such as textbook and materials costs for students

⏱ decreasing the amount of time instructors need to prepare lessons and course materals

University libraries are uniquely positioned to function as hubs of student support in service of educational equity.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Background

In 2022, the Digital Learning Team at the RMIT University Library received funding through the **Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program** equity initiative to develop resources supporting students from backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in higher education, specifically those from:
- regional and remote Australia;
- low socio-economic households;
- and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.

The resulting project consists of a realistic story and related activities that contextualise skills from the Library's **Learning Lab**, a collection of online materials designed to support students in the foundation-level skills needed for success at university.

Learning Lab Contextualised Content: A suite of OERs

Content Development Pillars

- **Representation**
Learners should be able to see themselves represented in the content.
- **Relevance**
Content must be realistic and relevant to learners and their lifestyle.
- **Reassurance**
Content should assure learners that higher education is a valid choice for them and that they will be given support.
- **Reliability**
Content should demonstrate to learners that it is a source they can trust.

Content Scenario

Sammie and Hayden, university students from the fictional rural town of Salty Creek, are organising a community festival focused on sustainability and the future of the town. Follow Sammie, Hayden, and the rest of the planning team as they utilise real-world skills to undertake tasks in the following festival-preparation areas:
- Team and Event Management
- Setting up the Festival Site
- Working with Volunteers and Contributors
- Running a Sustainable Festival
- Organising the Industry Booths
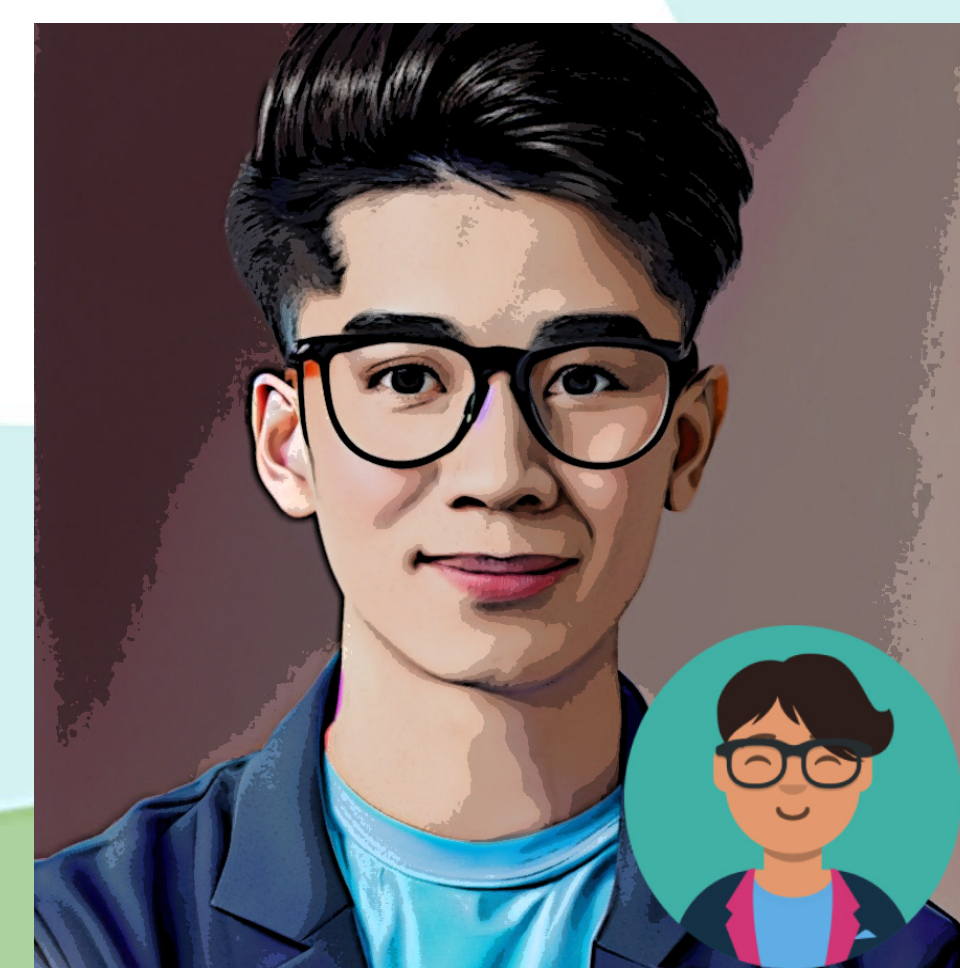
SALTY CREEK Community Festival

Sammie
Festival Organiser Co-lead

Hayden
Festival Organiser Co-lead

Mia
Engineering and Safety Advisor

James
On-site GP and Health Advisor

Bo
Budget and Marketing Advisor

Cara
Community Engagement Advisor

Subjects and Skill Areas

- Art & Design
- Careers
- Communication
- Economics
- Engineering
- Event Management
- Health
- Marketing
- Social Studies
- Sustainability
- Collaboration
- Colour Theory
- Critical Thinking
- Maths
- Online Skills
- Physics
- Presenting
- Reading
- Research Skills
- Study Skills
- Sustainability Literacy
- Time Management
- Writing

Select the '+' icon to read more about each of the charts and graphs below.

Visualising survey data with charts and graphs

Help Mia calculate how much force is needed to pull the trolley up the ramp.

The mass of one speaker (40kg) plus the trolley (14kg) is 54kg. Using the diagram above, where m represents the mass, g is gravity, and F_p is the pulling force down the ramp, calculate the kilogram-force required to pull the speakers up a 30-degree ramp. You can assume friction is inconsequential.

Force = _____ kg

✓ Check

Moving heavy equipment safely

VACANCIES

Schools Speech Pathologist

SOCIAL POLICY OFFICER: COMMUNITY WELLBEING
Salty Shire Council
Now hiring

MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION OFFICER

Social sector job board

Use the slider to move between the images showing each stage of Afra's mind map creation.

Mind-mapping an artist statement

Welcome to SALTY CREEK
Pop. 9000
The Heart of Salty Shire

Student Feedback

Feedback shared by students in the target audience cohorts during focus groups:

"I can see a lot of my interests represented in a bunch of the different characters as well as my friends' interests . . . so I really like that."

"I want to recommend this to everyone in my classes."

rmit.pressbooks.pub/llcc/

As of July 2023:
16.1K page views
2714 visitors