03

Iris Ambrose
Campus librarian
LaTrobe University, Shepparton
i.ambrose@latrobe.edu.au
(03) 5833 2640

The students have iPods: an opportunity to use iPods as a teaching tool in the library

This case study is about making the most of an opportunity. Combining a traditional library introduction lesson with available mobile technology proved to be a successful strategy. Content was taught in a way that students would be able to utilise after the class and throughout their course.

Each Diploma of Education student in 2010 at the Shepparton Campus of LaTrobe University has been provided with an iPod Touch. This initiative, funded by the university, allows the students to download lecture podcasts, access online resources and share ideas with others. Learning to work effectively with mobile technology enhances their engagement with the blended learning approach of their course and also allows them to consider how they could use such applications in their own teaching.

The campus librarian needed to introduce the students to library services as a large group in a short time. What better way than to make use of the iPods? The result was a lesson easy in both preparation and delivery. Students found the session informative and entertaining. Novice iPod users were challenged to improve their skills and competent users were quickly using their iPod to navigate the library website.

As academic librarians experiment with ways to use mobile devices for information literacy, opportunities will arise where they can become involved with existing programs. At Shepparton, utilising the iPod was an efficient way to present library information and services to students.