

Abstract 24

### **Mobile Touch Abstract M-Libraries Brisbane Conference 2011**

Over the last three intakes of students in our accredited Youth Work training program, we have noticed an increase in students accessing our web content on their smart phones, off site and also while in class. At first we thought this was a distraction to learning but soon realised it was, if anything, enhancing their learning experience. Students have also started to expect that their online material will be available to access from mobile devices.

Most of our RTO staff now use smart phones as a tool for self directed learning, through blogs, podcasts and video media. Our first step in moving to mlearning has been to optimize our current material for the most common mobile devices. We are now experimenting with other mlearning technologies within that platform with existing learners. The results have been an exciting new way to engage learners at YMIS.

YMIS Online hosts over 200 students and its online content services many more youth workers in the field



who require ongoing support and training with limited time frames available to access online content.

Our 2010 mlearning project 'Mobile Touch' tested the accessibility and functionality of our LMS on different mobile platforms, so we could then alter the state of our web based content for optimum performance in mlearning activities.

This involved trialling and documenting the use of QR codes, SMS and CSS and HTML5 for mobiles and smart phones with a pilot group of students and trainers in 2010. With an extra mode to deliver content we can broaden the set of learning approaches in our programs that trainers develop. Our ability to access learners in real-time could open up future unexplored possibilities for learning.

Mobile learning offers more learners the ability to train in remote, transit or complex work roles, providing flexibility to the learner to access training where and when they

need it. As our project is actually developing models for mlearning and not just youth work content, it can be used to benefit RTO's and workplace training across a diverse range of industry sectors.

With a new medium for students to access our courses, we expect a higher level of frequent engagement with our content and the multiplication of that content being shared between peers through mobile devices and the web. For the future, our RTO