Workshop 9. E-learning and its effects on libraries

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WHO were we?
10 participants + me (an academic)
Catalunya – 6 (UAB 1, UB 1, UPF 2, + public libs 2)
Italy – 1 (University of Milan)
Norway -1 (BIBSYS)
Slovenia -1 (University of Maribor)
UK – 1 (Middlesex University)

WHAT we discussed?
- WHAT is e-learning?
- WHY all the developments in e-learning?
- HOW are libraries involved in e-learning?
- WHO is involved in e-learning?
- WHERE can we find out more about e-learning and libraries?

Workshop approach -1
Each workshop participant explained their experiences in e-learning and their current job role
I had prepared, and delivered PowerPoint presentations for each of the five themes
These were also distributed electronically to the workshop participants during the ELAG meeting
There was some small group (3 people) discussion on various issues

Topics for small group discussion
Definition of e-learning
Advantages of e-learning for learners
Advantages of e-learning for libraries
Challenges for libraries to support e-learning

Workshop approach – 2
Participants shared their experiences and views throughout the workshop
I had brought various physical resources (books and papers) in case participants wanted to read in more depth
Practical experiences of other libraries in supporting e-learning were given
Participants noted the key points learned
Key points ‘learned’ by participants at end

It is sometimes difficult for academics and librarians to work together – this is not good for e-learning
It is crucial for the library’s survival that it is involved in e-learning
There is a need for strong collaborative effort within the institution to implement e-learning
Libraries should be more pro-active in providing access to Re-Usable Learning Objects

.. and more

Librarians in public libraries can use an e-learning approach to provide relevant information for different user groups at different times e.g. Use of e-resources, information literacy to assist with lifelong learning, assistance for immigrant communities
There could be some co-operation between libraries (possibly in different sectors) in development of e-learning materials

.. and even more

Librarians’ role in support of teaching and learning will change and so need to know about about e-learning
A solid team must be created to ensure appropriate workflow for e-learning – need to study approaches of other institutions
E-learning is a collective effort and should involve the library staff as coach/captain – other players are IT services, Educators and Administrators

Thanks to all workshop participants