

ACL Initiative Project Report

Name of project lead	Helen Beeston
Name of organisation	College of Continuing Education

Brief description of what you proposed to do

- Increase the e learning opportunities in the classroom through a wider variety of resources and equipment.
- Use camera for learners studying ASDAN TI photography/multimedia
- Try mobile learning with learners who have a learning difficulty and/or disability working at the Pre Entry level.
- Create more visual resources such as pod casts
- Use Skype as a visual way of communicating rather than text based

Summary of your project *(How did your organisation integrate the mini laptops and camera into e-learning in your Adult Education Service?)*

The equipment was shared between Family Learning and Learning for Living and Work. I used it with learners attending Learning for Living and Work, studying ASDAN Towards Independence Courses. We swapped the laptops during Oct half term. I had a share of the camera and used it a couple of days a week to compliment the ASDAN photography course

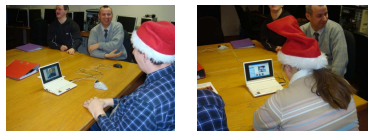
Evaluation of project

Camera

The camera has been very useful, it has been used -

- To take photographs for evidence, particularly on excursions, out the classroom
- To take photographs of each learner receiving their certificate at the presentation (This was a new idea and enabled the learners on TI photography to be the photographer at such a key event)
- Photographs could be viewed instantly through the Wii and onto the large smart board as SD card compatible with Wii
- It has been very easy for the learners to use
- The learners had the opportunity to use the optical zoom and clearly see the lens moving (the Snap cameras we use have a digital zoom so it is difficult for them to see and understand how it works)

Mini laptops



Advantages-

- Portable
- Learners liked the novelty of such a small computer
- Learners enjoyed using the webcam - photos above of them taking pictures of themselves with Christmas hats on.
- The Linux version would play music from my ipod
- Windows version easier for learners to use as they are more familiar with operating system
- More suitable interactive games on Linux
- It was useful to be able to take a small computer out of classroom to work in other areas.
- It was useful to have a small computer that I could use to complete paperwork out of the classroom.
- Linux very quick to start up and it is ready to be used very quickly, useful for impromptu use.

Disadvantages

- Keys were too small for learners to use, but the addition of an external mouse etc was effective. An external keyboard would make it easier, but then more things to carry around and maybe an ordinary computer may be better.
- Because the screen is so small, it was difficult for many learners to read.
- The computer wiped all my music on my ipod! I don't know why but I am reluctant to try again
- Unable to effectively connect to smart board. I was frightened of breaking it. I need to try again with support from someone more technically minded.
- Difficult to navigate menus, particularly Linux until I got used to it.
- Window one takes a long time to start up.

Project outputs

Any plans for the future?

- Next year we will use the cameras again at the presentation and with good quality images we can create and sell calendars shortly after the event to raise money



- The camera will also be use to take photographs to use on the website, by using [Panorama Factory](#) we can create panoramic view of each classroom
- Use the camera to create video pod casts, (now I know how to edit the movie!)
- Haven't tried Skype yet but will.