



ACL Initiative Project Report

Name of project lead	Christine Howells
Name of organisation	Sandwell Adult and family Learning Service

Brief description of what you proposed to do

Enhance delivery of our Employability Award courses with an emphasis on hard-to-reach learners.

The anticipated outcomes of the project will be

1. to provide RARPA evidence for accreditation.
2. to develop a range of customised skills checks, basic skills blended learning, assessments and quizzes, and interactive media-rich content which can be used with future groups.
3. to give learners the confidence and skills to progress into employment.

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

We used the laptop and camera at one of our outreach venues, to enable us to provide up-to-date resources with a NEETS (Not in Employment, Education and Training) Group to deliver the Employability Award. Firstly we used the mini-laptops as mobile screeners at Entry 3 and Level 1, focusing on literacy, and numeracy, and as a means of accessing the Internet for research and job-search.

In addition, learners are using the equipment to storyboard and edit a 5 minute presentation using photographs and video.

Access to up-to-date technology has encouraged and motivated learners, enabling them to organise and structure their own learning, and to develop their confidence, and communication skills in preparation for interview.

Learners have also used the camera to create storyboards for their portfolios, and we also used them to provide learning materials for other groups. For example we have created a photo library of retail based pictures, which we can use for discussion, case studies and so on for future teaching sessions.

Evaluation of project

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We had two laptops both with Windows rather than one Windows and one Linux. The small size and lightweight design of the mini-laptops meant that it was easier to transport to and from outreach centres, which do not have access to up-to-date ICT equipment.

We thought the small screen size may be a problem, but used in short periods for screening literacy and numeracy needs, they were fine.

We have not had sufficient time yet to provide a full evaluation of the use of the teaching resources, but can provide an update once we have used them with the next group of learners.

Much of the teaching that we do is in small faith centres, community centres and buildings that do not have access to PC's. It is our intention to purchase more of the e-machines, since they are sufficiently good for short-session use, and are portable enough for a tutor to carry 10 of them at one time.

Project outputs

7 learners to achieve ASDA Employability Award, and Key Skills

Any plans for the future?

To purchase more laptops to use with learners and to explore the possibility of using them for tutors to mark registers on-line, thus providing more timely information to enable us to address retention and attendance issues.