

Do they know what they are doing?

A review of IT use by prison-based students

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Context

- There are approximately OU 1,700 students studying in prison
- Around 300 students in prison start Access modules each year
- The Prison Service is investing in making IT available to learners in prison
- The university is investing in making materials available digitally
- Students in prison have limited access to IT which might vary across the prison estate
- Access to IT would generally be at fixed times and for fixed periods. For example, each Monday morning or for 2 hours on Wednesday afternoon
- Prison learners do not have ready access to advice on how to make best use of IT

The problem

- In the time available students have two tasks to complete using IT
 - Working with the digital materials
 - Typing assignments
- How do they know how to use their IT time?
- How do they develop and adopt useful IT study strategies?

The plan

- To use study diaries to find out how much time new Access students have access to IT (2020B cohort)
- To find out how they split this time
- To interview experienced students to understand how they use IT
- To use the interviews to create an advice document for prison learners

Outputs

- User data to compare with Access module design and, if necessary, to inform design changes
- Advice to new students on how to prepare for and use IT access during their module