

23 Things for Research: An International Collaboration

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Context

How and when should researchers and departments invest time and resources into ICT?

How can a doctoral college support and influence this process?



*“Good introduction to technological concepts
I had not thought of using before”*

Background

Our earlier study (Sim & Stein, 2019) :

- relationship between ICT use and research skills
- ICT comfort zones
- embedded assumptions
- 'effectiveness' and 'efficiency'
- effects and possibilities of ICT in different contexts



"I very much liked the topics and opportunity to connect with researchers outside of my specific discipline."

Key aspects of 23Things International

- Asynchronous delivery within a shared timeframe
- Introduce easily accessed digital tools
- Encourage experimentation
- 'Pods' of overlapping research interests
- Discussion, group and individual tasks



"[A highlight was] Awareness of certain "types" of tool, e.g. the fact that data viz software exists. Made me set aside time to think about things (career, collaboration etc.)."

Key stats

Promotes resource sharing and collaborative research outputs between participants in the UK and New Zealand

- 250 registrations (25% research staff)
- 59 pods
- 14 week course: March – May 2020
- 23 Things, 2 Things per week
- Expertise from all three institutions



"Pushed me to do tasks I wouldn't do otherwise, especially creating the website. I also enjoyed the food for thought regarding things such as accessibility."

Intended outcomes

- Website and blog
- Public engagement and social media
- Professional networking profiles
- Career coaching
- Collaborative software (e.g. Office 360)
- Crowdsourcing, infographics, data management, well-being apps, copyright, supervision tools, research impact, funding



"Finding out about tech things that I hadn't considered and learning how to use them. I'm armed for the future now!"

23 Things International Site

<http://23things2020.wordpress.com/>

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23 THINGS 2020

Digital tools for your professional and personal development



"It seem very well organised and I like the fact that it is possible for attendees to complete the tasks in their own time."

Notable outcomes

- Overwhelmingly positive feedback
- Majority reported lasting difference to their research approach
- Collaborations formed
- Requests to take part again next year

"Are we able to do it again?"

"Thank you for this initiative! I enjoyed it immensely."

"I'm glad I will have this resource to look back on as I progress through my academic career."

"I got motivated to design and develop a scholarly collaboration tool."



Challenges and changes

- 'Pod' system
- Expanding for 2021 – more partners in more countries
- Improving and tailoring website
- Update content to reflect feedback and new tech
- Managing expectations



"Tools that help enhance publishing skills (reviewing articles, writing, getting published)"

"Ethics"

"project management tools"

"A Whatsapp group"

"It seemed a nice idea at the start... but [then] 'Nope, the world's ending and I've got other priorities.'"

Questions?

What infrastructure and institutional support is necessary to support doctoral researchers' ability to successfully choose from and adopt ICT opportunities?

How can collaboratively designed online learning support the needs and working conditions of dispersed and diverse researchers?

What are the benefits and challenge of supporting international collaborations through this or similar platforms?

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Ref: Sim, K.N. & Stein, S. (2019) Enhancing the Roles of Information & Communication Technologies in Doctoral Research Processes. *Ako Aotearoa*.