TAFE Library Futures Seminar

Workshop Topic 4:
'*How are new technologies affecting our roles as librarians?*'

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Ideas to consider:

- Technologies have fundamentally changed our roles – do our PDs reflect the reality?
- We are drifting away from the way users interact with information
- The way teaching is delivered excludes the library
- Control of content is with the IT Department
- We need to be in the user's space
- There is a tendency to still think of our own 'individual' libraries – we need to work together and possibly pool resources within Victorian TAFE libraries
- VIC TAFE bodies need to market their services collaboratively
- Collaborate through OTTE? VATL?
- Start a VATL blog?
- Concept of a 'roving librarian' becoming appealing
- Need form of advertising that challenges – must look at how we package chunks of information
- Are there 10 questions that everybody asks – could we come up with some generic answers?
- The 'physical library' will never be done away with but what about our roles?
- Gets back to our 'professional identity' – how do we get our specialised knowledge to our constituents?
- Must get smarter about building information chunklets especially with the recurring stuff – 'administrivia'
- Is the information specialist's role still there?
- We need new models of delivery the 'good stuff' for instance a collaborative electronic oracle service
- Need to sort out the administrivia and specialist information enquiries
- This is the approach you need rather than this is the database you need
- Are we losing our skill to answer the 'reference inquiry' due to lack of practice?
- Need new models in this 'Second Life' age
- It is incredibly important to understand what our users are using – i.e. Web 2.0
- We're assuming that all of our students are studying for PhDs and as librarians we're pre-programmed to keep on delivering
- Our current models of information literacy are not matching the need – clients want 'just in time' information
- How much are they relying on us for information that actually relates to their studies?
- It's about sales and that's beyond the scope of one TAFE
- At present we are 'scattered entities'