

10. CREATING ENGAGING LEARNING RESOURCES

Learning resources include support materials such as text books, handouts, readers, multimedia programmes and online study materials.

Text books: Most units have one or more set text books, and sometimes a list of recommended texts or readings. Text books can be expensive, and students buy them in the hope that they will prove useful. If you decide that a particular text book will be a useful resource for your students, check the current cost, and ensure that a good portion of the book is directly related to your unit, or to other units that your students might study. Ensure you are updating the text book choice regularly so that you are giving your students the most relevant resource. Order the text in plenty of time through the University Bookshop on the Bentley campus. Remind your students that they can sell their text books through the Guild Secondhand Bookshop on the Bentley campus. Check that the Library has at least one copy of the text and/or recommended readings (www.opac.library.curtin.edu.au). Please use the 'Suggest a Book' option to order copies for the Library. Items in high demand can be placed in the Reserve collection and restricted to a 2 hour loan during the day and an overnight loan after hours. Alternatively, if a particular chapter from a text is all that is required, the Library staff can have it scanned and made available.

Learning materials on E-Reserve: In order to comply with copyright regulations, the University recommends that academic staff use the Library's E-Reserve service to make journal articles and book chapters available electronically to students. This enables the Library (and the University) to keep track of usage or reproduction of journal articles or book chapters from particular publications, ensuring that no more than 10% of a particular issue or book is reproduced. Only a few databases (such as ScienceDirect and ProQuest) actually permit reproduction or linking to the full text of a journal article. If you reproduce articles in Blackboard without checking the licensing agreements, you may in fact be in contravention of the license. For this reason we ask you to just provide the references to the material you need students to access, and the E-Reserve team will source materials in copyright compliant formats on your behalf. Please contact the Library's Reserve team on 9266 7572 or email reserve@curtin.edu.au or contact your Faculty Librarian.

Audio and Video: You can diversify your learning materials by providing students with audio and video recordings. Audiovisual technologies are accessible, easy to use and expand opportunities for stimulating and engaging your students.

Online tools not only let you (and your students) record short, sharp and engaging videos but provide opportunities for collaboration, connection and knowledge building. Free resources include Jing, Screenr, and Voicethread. You may also like to find ways to implement the use of **existing resources**, both those created by you and those from other educational institutions. Sites like YouTube, Slideshare, Vimeo, Blip.tv, and others can provide alternative resources that supplement your teaching materials.

The university provides two large scale audiovisual solutions for recording, storing and publishing to students, the iLecture system and Echo 360 Personal Capture.

Automatic **iLecture** devices are installed in multiple venues at Curtin including theatres, classrooms and case study rooms. Venues set up for automatic recording are on standby to record as soon as audio input is detected. The system also caters for manual recording bookings and the ability to upload pre-recorded media. See www.ilectures.curtin.edu.au.

Echo 360 Personal Capture is software, available for Mac and PC, which enables you to record and publish to the iLecture system wherever you and your computer may be. This is a convenient and effective way of making brief recordings such as unit introductions, case studies and overviews of topic discussions. The dual video stream allows you to record vision from a webcam as well as the content on your computer screen. See <https://cits.curtin.edu.au/staff/ilecture/DesktopCapture.cfm>

The Centre for eLearning (CeL) has a small **studio** that can provide all the software and hardware requirements you may need to record media resources either individually or with colleagues. This studio is available to book via Outlook. See www.cel.curtin.edu.au. Free software such as Microsoft Movie Maker or Photostory 3 and iMovie for the Mac are proprietary tools that can assist you in editing and enhancing your videos.

If you need a **headset and/or webcam** contact the Centre for eLearning.

Using PowerPoint: PowerPoint can enhance what you are saying, or it can be a distraction. Avoid putting all your lecture notes onto PowerPoint slides as this often results in students copying rather than engaging with what you are saying. Instead, use a slide to pose a question, or show a diagram. Useful images augment rather than repeat what you are saying. Use pictures, diagrams, graphs, maps, photos and cartoons for visual impact. For legibility and clarity:

- Restrict the amount of writing on a slide to about six lines;
- Use keywords or phrases rather than sentences;
- Use a 24 point font for text and 36 point font for headings;
- In a well-lit room use dark text on a light background; in a dark room use light text on a dark background; and
- Avoid distracting background designs, transitions, animations and sounds.



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