

UCISA User Skills Group (USG) Digital Skills and Development (DSD)



Gillian Fielding
Digital Skills Manager
University of Salford



Rebecca McCready
Learning and Teaching Advisor
Newcastle University

The state of the nation: The digital capability crisis in UK?

UCISA benchmarking survey results and feedback

Get involved: [#ucisadigcap](#)

GF



This is a heading from the Times Higher in February. It references the House of Lords report called “Make or Break Britain: The UK’s digital future.”

The basic message of the report is that Britain needs cease the digital revolution and to utilize it’s opportunities and affordances to make the nation a world leader in all spheres, commerce, industry, health and education. If we don’t do this we will fall behind as a nation.



GF

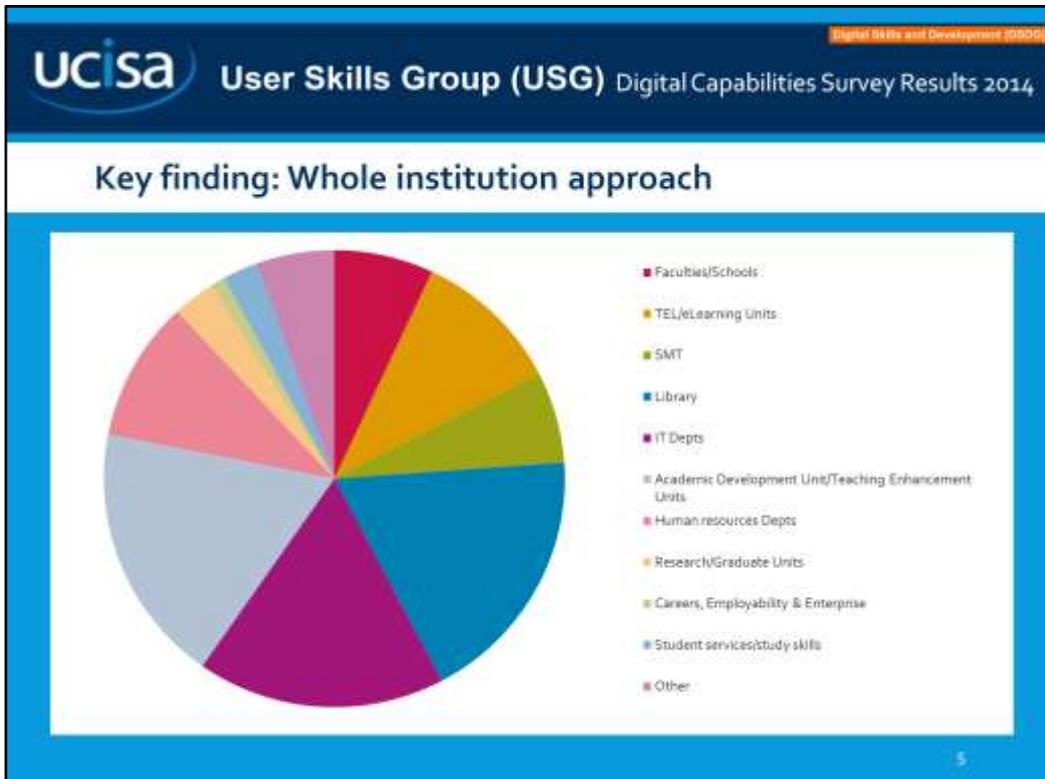
1. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
2. Put your hand up if you do agree with this statement.
3. Jisc Digifest result – 82% YES

The Digital Skills Committee report, [*Make or Break: The UK's Digital Future*](#), says there is evidence that the higher education sector “has not responded to the urgent need for reskilling” and that universities could better serve students by

- 1) developing shorter, more flexible provision to add to their existing courses.
- 2) Building links with commerce
- 3) Doing research into the area

It's well worth “reading” though you don't need to read all 144 pages - there's an 8 page Executive summary and you can always search and find the HE sections.

A similar and passionate message was recently put in the Richard Dimbleby lecture by Martha Lane-Fox. Lane-Fox says the same though she is referring to the Internet. She says that we (the nation) need to “get it”, she says “Let's create a new institution and make Britain brilliant at the internet. We need a new national institution to lead an ambitious charge – to make us the most digital nation on the planet.” That institution is called Dot.everywhere. You can sign the petition at “<http://www.doteveryone.org.uk/>”. For all of us interested in equality she also



RMC

Adopt the Jisc dig lit definition across the institution – move on from this discussion.

Integrate it into strategic plans, inc for:

Teaching, Learning & Assessment strategy

Library/Learning Resources strategy

Information & Communications Technology (ICT) strategy

Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) or eLearning strategy

Student Experience strategy

Estates/Learning Spaces strategy

Mobile strategy

Access/Widening Participation strategy

Communications strategy

Research strategy

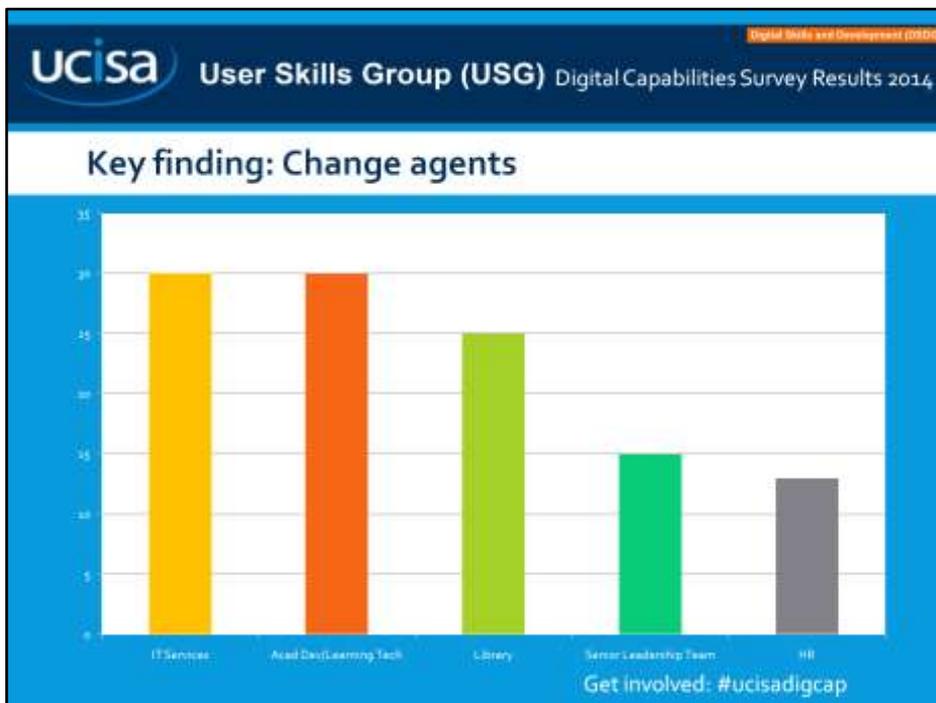
Marketing strategy

Staff Development strategy

Get senior leadership support.

GRAPH: The responsibility for developing the culture of digitally capable staff and students, was in most institutions located across a number of teams.

The three areas with most responsibility were Libraries, IT departments and academic development/educational development unit or teams. Very few



RMC

Question 6.3 asked 'Which roles and departments can affect the kinds of change in digital capabilities culture required? Please list departments and job titles (where appropriate).'

Of the 63 institutions, 44 responded to this question.

The five most commonly cited departments were:

= IT services (30)

= Academic development/Learning Technologies (30)

Library (25)

Senior Leadership Team (15)

HR (13)

Most institutions (39, 88%) cited between one and four, or five and eight different services, departments or groups. In addition to the list above, Staff Development, Careers, Faculties, Schools, Student Union, Audio-Visual Services, Estates, Finance, Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Specialist Experts, relevant committees, Directors of Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Study Skills Advisors, academic staff, student representatives, Customer Services, Marketing and Communications, and 'everyone' were also cited.

Of all responding institutions, six listed nine job titles or units where digital literacy featured. Titles included SOLSTICE fellows, Student Digital Champions/Ambassadors/Advocates, Programme Manager Digital Pedagogy, Programme Manager Digital Curation, Digital Training Officer, Digital Learning Director, and the Office for Digital Learning.

Discussion

- Are you acting as an agent of change in your institution for digital capabilities development?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Working towards

Discussion

- What can you as an individual, or your team, do to further the digital capabilities agenda?
- Type your answer in the chat box

Finding out more

UCISA Digital Capabilities Survey 2014

- www.ucisa.ac.uk/digcap
- #ucisadigcap
- Join our community:
 - <http://digitalskillsanddevelopment.ning.com/>
- Spotlight on Digital Capabilities conference
 - June 3/4th 2015, MediaCityUK, University of Salford
<https://www.ucisa.ac.uk/groups/dsdg/Events/2015/digcaps.aspx>

Contact

- Gillian Fielding
 - g.d.fielding@salford.ac.uk
- Rebecca McCready
 - Rebecca.McCready@ncl.ac.uk