

# Digital Leaders: Running a peer assisted digital skills programme

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## Who we are...



**Holly Singleton**

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for the School of  
Engineering, Energy and  
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University.



**Janine Diva**

Postgraduate student at Coventry  
University.  
Digital Leader.

# What we will be talking about today...

- Explain the Digital Leaders project; what we did, how we did it and why.
- Have an opportunity to try some of the activities we used on the programme.
- Hear from one of the students who was involved and about their experience with the project.

# What is Digital Leaders?

## When is it happening?

Our introductory workshops will be held on:

31st October 10.30am - 12.30pm &  
1st November 10.30am - 12.30pm

@The Grass DMILL, 3rd Floor Lanchester Library

come to  
an intro  
workshop

1

attend  
development  
workshops

2

create your  
digital leaders  
team

3

design & deliver  
digital literacy  
campaigns

4

digital  
LEADERS

## Why Become a Digital Leader?

CU Digital Leaders is a 2 step programme:



Attend digital literacy workshops

Become a Digital Leader

Share knowledge with your peers

digital lead-  
termly grants **PERKS**

open badges  
accreditation

free website hosting

**APPLY  
NOW**

# Digital capabilities and their importance.

- Improving the 'digital fluency' of students is a main pillar of Coventry University's education strategy – however, like a lot of things the focus here is largely on IT
- JISC's digital capabilities, and others to help inform the areas we would concentrate on.
- Taking place in the aftermath of Brexit and during American elections – lots of interesting issues to talk about.
- The students themselves were interested in digital capabilities in the context of employability, but we were interested in them as 'life skills'.

# The initial programme of workshops.

- 5 flavours of workshop:
- Introduction – an icebreaker to get people talking and general conversations around privacy, online security, using social media and lots more.
- 3 Thematic workshops: social networking + communication; well-being and privacy; finding, handling + sharing info.
- Final ‘passing it on’ workshop: a brainstorming session to come up with ideas for mini-projects and the ways in which we could get the information the students had learnt and discussed out into the world.

# What is your digital animal?

digital  
LEADERS



Eagle

You are a confident user of the digital world. You constantly look ahead and seek out emerging technologies. The digital may already play a significant part in your academic study and you probably enjoy helping others integrate technology into their learning.

digital  
LEADERS



Meerkat

You enjoy the social aspect of the digital world and are always looking to make connections. You are so good at helping others making a difference. You are collaborative and sharing your ideas and you believe in supporting others to succeed.

digital  
LEADERS



Owl

You have a degree of scepticism about the digital world. You are not familiar with technology, so you may find it difficult to study or about your life. However, as you have had some success in using technology, you may be your preferred option.

digital  
LEADERS



Spider

You are always looking for new technology to use. You are always looking for new technology to use. You are always looking for new technology to use. You are always looking for new technology to use.

# If you were a digital leader, what ideas would you come up with?

- Brainstorm in your groups using the flipchart paper and pens
- Needs to relate to one or all of these: 1) social networking and communication 2) well-being and privacy 3) finding, handling and sharing information
- How will you pass it on to the wider community?



Raise awareness of appearance online for employers who might be looking at your online presence - posters, surveys w/ link to website

Information checking - perceptions cloud view on information.

Quiz/test on social media presence and how employers may view it

Mental health - social media as a platform to spread awareness. Something like Instagram - to get rid of stigma.

Public library link people and older

Privacy - awareness on how your data is being used

Video/chat show series - how easy to get people to share their password, other privacy issues

Hack-a-thon

QR codes - link media Beacons

Claiming back your own identity online - through workshops

Positives and negatives to social media

Surveys/questionnaires - Twitter polls

'Switching off' social media - taking breaks for mental well being?

Using fear to e Digital empow

Working with interested ses

Government spying - positive or negative?

Old fashioned view of the internet - not the same as it was - privacy - can't act the way we did

Employability - 'what kind of digital employee are you?'

Community aspect - helping elderly to become digitally literate - easier to scam older people

Creative industry - how important social media can be - how you can get it to work for you - your 'brand'

Time management - how do we focus with our phone/social media etc.

How much Google knows about you as an employee  
LinkedIn  
Could also use with older people - reskilling  
Younger people - finding out what experiences they want to have - rather than just degree

Scuba diving / Internet - things can be fun but dangerous - comparing to other things

Animated videos - big screens on the Hub  
Engage University staff and students but also other people

Mindfulness to take control

# Application process.

- We contacted all students who attended the workshops to apply to become Digital Leaders.
- The application process involved the students, individually, creating a short video that explained 1) why they wanted to be a Digital Leader and 2) what digital initiative they would be interested in delivering if their application was successful.
- We received 16 applications and accepted all of them as Digital Leaders.
- One of our Digital Leaders, George Adams, has given me permission to show his application video [here](#).

## Taking a leaf out of 'LoggedOn'...



“Sara, 20 years old, is a biomedical student passionate about equality and water sports. She is interested in potentially venturing into medicine or health, but is open to working for companies or organisations that encourage progress in under-developed parts of the world.”



## Other student projects...

- Web cam stickers and promotion around online privacy.
- Using social media to highlight your work and create a digital footprint you *want* people to see.
- YouTube video series promoting online security, particularly the use of strong passwords.
- Posters and accompanying website highlighting the importance of keeping your online content private – particularly relevant to nursing students and their use of social media.

# What's worked well.

- Collaboration from other teams within the University.
- We have amazing, hard working students who are wonderful to work with.
- Has scope to go even further, especially after reflecting and lessons learned...

# Challenges

- I have never been a project manager before! A lot learnt from this: establish roles, establish deadlines, you have to be firm.
- Keeping students engaged – this is easier if you have the above clearly outlined from the beginning.
- Are students employed or volunteers?

Any questions?

Thank you for participating in our workshop!

Please feel free to contact me: [holly.singleton@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:holly.singleton@coventry.ac.uk)

Digital Leaders website: <http://digitalleaders.coventry.domains/>