

The University of Auckland Library launches Voyager Online Tutorial - Te Punga.

The University Library introduced a new and exciting interactive online tutorial for the Voyager catalogue, called Te Punga, The Anchorstone in December 2005.

Te Punga uses a graphic novel and simulations to teach people how to use Voyager and the University Library. The tutorial is aimed at young first year students and features a highly graphic format, with the content 'wrapped' in a comic-style narrative. Underlying the story is a metaphorical theme, whereby students 'lost' upon an ocean of information can use the tutorial to anchor themselves and find their bearings. This theme is realised by a voyaging motif with Maori and Pacific cultural referencing, and is reflected in the tutorial's title: Te Punga, the Anchorstone. There are three chapters to the narrative, covering various Voyager search types and functions. The Enquiry Desk section provides quick access to complementary information and self-test options. In terms of design and structure the tutorial exploits the web environment by providing interactive, multi-dimensional, user-defined pathways.

Voyager online tutorial, Te Punga consists of several learning objects which can be used individually to develop a specific skill, or the complete tutorial can develop broad Voyager skills. The tutorial, with self-test options, is available to all students and staff at the University of Auckland to use in their own time or to integrate into academic coursework requirements. The tutorial platform is a self-contained website accessible from LEARN.

This project was a joint undertaking between the University Library and the Centre for Flexible and Distance Learning (CFDL). The University Library's Information Skills Team has been actively involved in this project from the outset and the E-Training Coordinator has undertaken a primary role in coordination, planning and content preparation. Most of the content was produced during 2005 and involved liaison with web developers and learning designers, usability testing with students, and consultation and review by Library staff. The response from students during testing has been overwhelmingly positive, with evidence that they have become very engaged, learnt a lot, and enjoyed the Te Punga experience.

Voyager online tutorial, Te Punga can be accessed via LEARN (and Voyager (voyager.auckland.ac.nz/)).

New Zealand Children's Books Part of International Children's Digital Library

The National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa has ensured children all over the world can read books by New Zealand writers by contributing to an innovative international digital library.

In August 2002 the National Library answered an urgent call from the organisers of the International Children's Digital Library (ICDL) to digitise some out of copyright New Zealand children's books already in the public domain for the November 2002 launch of their online project. The ICDL (www.icdlbooks.org) aims to encourage children aged 3 to 13 to explore different cultures by making digital versions of books from all over the world available online. While the website's primary audience is children, it also forms a valuable resource for scholars and researchers in the area of children's literature.