

Developing a Module in Multi-media Documentation of Practice by and as Research

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Final Project Report

There are several outcomes from this project. Some are available publicly, some are personal, and others relate to the development of the teaching programme at Kent. All in all, the Development Award has provided a great spur to develop teaching in this nascent area of performance documentation, and clarified tasks and needs. This is a difficult area to deliver on for several reasons: the need for sophisticated resource support; theoretical issues about documentation; and the continuing advance of the technologies involved. There are however certain outcomes which have arisen from the project. These relate broadly to the intended outcomes, even if the expectation was to produce Four DVDs/CDs. The complexity of the technology and the application of these meant the potential outcomes had to be reduced. The result is two simply edited DVD documents and a third very sophisticated DVD.

Outcomes

1. A short (50 minute) **DVD of the Documentation** roundtable held on January 9th 2004 at the University of Kent. This contains extracts of advice, examples of practice, as well as reflections from experts and lay people working in this area. This will be distributed to the participants of that day and people who were unable to attend but who expressed an interest in the session. It is a simple edited DVD of the meeting which was filmed with a Canon XM2 and which I authored using an eMac and inbuilt software – iMovie and iDVD – for the rendering. It thus serves as one example of documenting simple live processes, though I appreciate that such a discussion and presentations do not have the requirements of recording either performance material or training/workshop practices.
2. A simple DVD film produced by an MA Practice as Research student (Sophie Metro Aksoy) as an example of what can be achieved quite easily as an edited record of process and performance to accompany PAR written submissions. It contains a trailer, a short documentary on her research and an edited extract of a workshop. This was also filmed with a Canon XM2 (mostly) and which was authored using an eMac and inbuilt software – iMovie and iDVD for the rendering. The student has produced a **Ten steps to making a DVD** guide that accompanies the DVD.
3. A highly sophisticated DVD documenting **Fran Barbe's AHRB Fellowship and related output**. This is an example of the potential use of DVDs in performance/process documentation and operates as a high quality example of what is possible with resource support and specialist advice. It accordingly generated a lot of contextual materials as it was formulated and made. These will be used as exemplars in teaching/methodological work with postgraduate students. The DVD has been sent to consultants for feedback before being finalised. It will then be commercially available and distributed for personal and library acquisition, advertised through SCUDD, PALATINE and Kent's website.
4. A detailed **Bibliography on Performance Documentation** and related issues.
5. The main focus for the award was to develop a course at postgraduate level for Kent. This has been written in draft and a copy is available if required. It was going to be brought in for January 05, but as it is a new programme there has not been enough time to create the business plan and clarify important details. The issue has been complicated by the recent publication (September 04) of a postgraduate Code of Practice, which is making demands on methodological support for postgraduate students. The draft course has been structured for researchers/students from outside Kent as well as providing methodological input into our own research programmes. Meeting both needs is difficult, as is finding a balance between taught/methodological elements and research processes. This issue and the course format/content is still being considered. It is hoped that the certificate and diploma will run from January 2006 and will provide a specialist and attractive course in performance documentation. Elements such as performance documentation reflection and creation are being piloted throughout 2005 as part of the Kent MA Practice as Research methodologies sessions. Thus the idea of developing this course has already had significant impact on our ongoing support of postgraduate students at Kent.

An important consideration that has arisen from this award has been the need for sector-wide developments in performance documentation, as are currently being progressed by PARIP for example. This is certainly a growth area, but one that contains many pitfalls, is relatively expensive (though this is becoming less and less an issue), time-consuming in practice, and complex to administer. It also opens up many theoretical issues for students and researching staff alike. I am grateful to PALATINE for giving

myself and Kent the financial support and incentive to make progress in understanding and delivering teaching and support in the area of performance documentation.

Professor Paul Allain