

# THE MORNING *LaTTe*

LaTTe's NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2021

The Learning and Teaching Technologies Advisory Group (LaTTe) provides recommendations to guide the strategic directions and use of learning technologies. This newsletter aims to share our activities and if you'd like to know more, or get involved, please contact your [LaTTe representative](#).



## TEL Support Initiative

To support digital uplift across the institution, a new and exciting endeavour called the TEL Support Initiative is running from the start of September to the end of November 2021.

Students have been hired, and through the support of School Leaders, a group of sessional academics have been gathered to form what we now call the TEL Support Squad. Squad members have received training in different areas to rapidly turn them into TEL specialists who are ready to provide Schools with support. That is not the only outcome though, as the training, project work and reflection pieces they are engaging in will form an invaluable professional learning experience for all Squad members.

The TEL Support Squad are offering support in a number of areas, with a firm focus on enhancing the quality of vUWS sites and building capacity within schools. So far, one of the more popular support options has been to help Subject Coordinators create H5P interactives for their vUWS site. Alternatively, to utilise the multidisciplinary expertise within the Squad, a peer or student review of a vUWS site is available. Subject Coordinators can also choose to receive support in the following areas: editing/enhancing video content, discussions around the

design of assessment tasks, Learning Analytics or Zoom, or improvements to the Grade Centre.

Significantly, the TEL Support Initiative is also targeting a digital uplift of accessibility. Western is aiming for an overall ALLY score of 80 by the end of 2021, and while some improvements have been made to increase our current score, there is still work to be done. As such, ALLY is a key focus of the TEL Support Initiative and one of the support options on offer. Squad members have been tasked with fixing “severe” and “major” issues within vUWS sites nominated by School Leaders, which will lead to an increase in the accessibility of the site and its overall ALLY score.

The TEL Support Squad have reached out to School Leaders to identify and nominate priority areas within their school to participate in the Initiative. As a result, collaborative discussions have been held, projects have kicked off, capacity has been built and support has been given. And we aren't even halfway yet!

If you are interested in participating in the TEL Support Initiative, please contact your LaTTe representative today.



## Digital Learning Thresholds

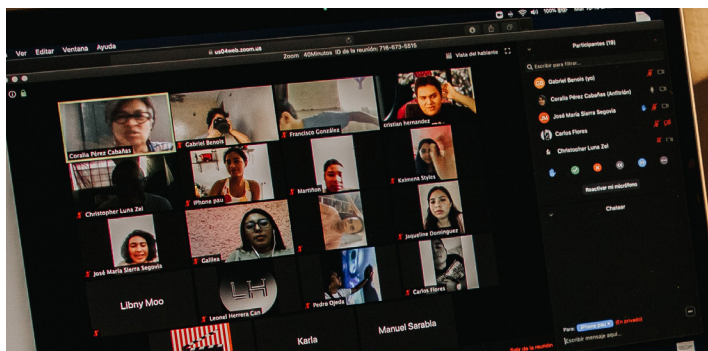
The Digital Learning Thresholds are approaching their final form having been well-socialised with members of LaTTe. The DLTs have received highly positive feedback for their pedagogical framing, the way they build on what has already been achieved in terms of quality improvement in the digital learning environment, and the way they target key features of the student learning experience in vUWS. The DLTs are designed not only to be a tool for continuous quality improvement but also a framework for innovation and impact over the next few years as we seek to take our digital learning environments to the next level.

### Principles

The Digital Learning Thresholds are Western's new standards for quality design and enhancement in our Digital Learning Environment (DLE), vUWS. These thresholds have been designed to adhere to a number of principles.

1. Focus on the student learning experience and student outcomes within the digital learning environment;
2. Complement existing curriculum design processes without duplicating quality assurance measures within the life cycle of Unit/Subject development and approval;
3. Provide a foundation of consistency across vUWS sites that promotes familiarity of use for students and tutors;
4. Are grounded in a pedagogical framework that has a robust scholarly basis that can be drawn on for inspiration and insight;
5. Create space for innovation and continuous quality improvement in the techniques, approaches, and technologies employed in the digital learning environment;
6. Are aligned to both qualitative and quantitative data sources that provide useful insights for innovation and enhancement over multiple cycles of development and improvement of curriculum and the digital learning environment;
7. Promote reflective practice and discourse among Unit/Subject Coordinators, learning designers and technologists, and other subject-matter experts as part of a cycle of continuous improvement;
8. Are accessible to students so that they can equally contribute to that continuous improvement process via their own reflection and feedback.

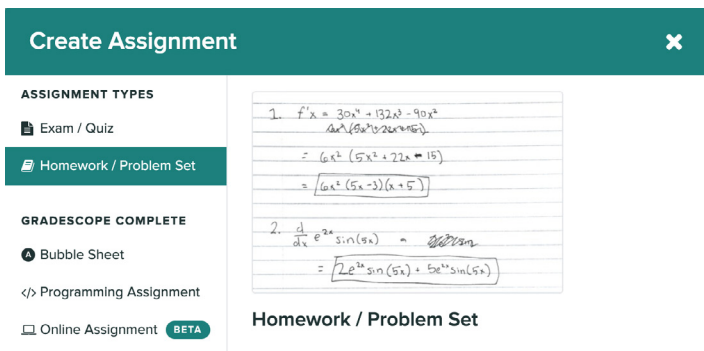
These principles shape the overarching purpose of the DLTs in ways that invite critical reflection from staff and students alike. This positions the DLTs in such a way that *they are themselves subject to reflection and critique*, and are not merely to be viewed as items on a checklist.



## Zoom Analytics

Did you know that so far in 2021 Western Sydney has had over 500,000 Zoom meetings? But how many of these meetings are for teaching and learning activities? How are teaching staff using Zoom to engage, teach and facilitate learning in the online environment? How can staff improve the quality of their teaching and learning in Zoom?

The Zoom Analytics project aims at providing an insight into the teaching and learning activities taking place in Zoom and developing a framework for improving teaching and learning using this technology. The project relies on data collected from the Zoom LTI Pro tool in vUWS to distinguish teaching and learning activities in Zoom meetings from general Zoom meetings. If you haven't already begun using the Zoom LTI tool in your teaching, access the Zoom LTI page located on the [Online Engagement and Teaching Hub](#) to see the benefits of using the Zoom LTI tool for managing your subject's Zoom meetings.



## Gradescope Proof of Concept

LaTTe is excited to announce the Gradescope proof-of-concept will commence in February 2022. This new digital online tool uses AI-assisted grading algorithms to mark assessments efficiently, grade written and typed exams, fixed-template assessments, homework assignments, and auto-grading submitted programming code.

Further information can be found at the [Gradescope website](#) and by [watching this video](#).

To register an Expression of Interest in participating in the Proof of Concept, please get in touch with your LaTTe school representative.

## Technology is about You, the Digital U

Working with our technology partners, LaTTe has created a space of learning and higher thinking where staff can apply technologies to their work.

If you are interested in finding out more about **Adobe XD** and **Acrobat**, we have workshops scheduled for November and December. Keep an eye on our [webpage](#) for registration information.

## Keen to know more?

Contact your **LaTTe representative** or visit [LaTTe's webpage](#).

Have a great day! From your colleagues on LaTTe.