

DACL Moodle – what & why

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Devon ACL has a password-protected 'Moodle' website to support teaching and learning. This sheet gives very brief info about what it is and why it might be useful.

1. What is Moodle?

Moodle is the name of a piece of software. It enables DACL to run a website where there are a number of separate areas, each related to one course or purpose. Moodle allows us to set up areas for individual tutors or subjects, so that:

- Tutors can **add things to**, and **change**, particular online area(s)
- Learners can **look at** and **contribute to** particular online area(s) - but not change them

The DACL Moodle site is not difficult to use – mainly requiring 'point & click' web skills. (and Moodle stands for **Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment**)

2. What can it offer?

- A. Areas for tutors (which learners can't get in to)
 - Areas relevant to all tutors – with information, links, downloads and 'forums'
 - Subject-specific areas for tutors teaching particular subjects eg Languages or Art – to allow sharing of ideas and dissemination of good practice
- B. Generic (county-wide) 'courses' for learners studying a subject eg French or Watercolour painting. These can be used as a place for team leaders, senior practitioners and others to put extension materials, links etc which may be useful for any learner in that subject.
- C. Specific 'courses' for particular groups of learners eg French Intermediate at Seaton. These courses can be used by individual tutors as a place to put materials for their particular group(s) of learners.

3. Why use it?

Tutors can use the tutors' areas (A above) to find resources for teaching, compare ideas, ask for help and share resources. Tutors can refer learners to the appropriate generic course – if one exists - for extension materials (B above) And, if keen, interested & moderately technically inclined, tutors can have their own area on the Moodle site to put things for their own particular groups of learners (C above).

Learners can have access to the materials in the appropriate county-wide course area (B above). This will allow them to look at items on-screen, download and print them, follow recommended web-links etc. Learners can also read and contribute to forums to share experiences and possibly upload their own items to the forum. If a tutor has their own area on the Moodle site, learners can get more group-specific material from there (C above).

4. If you would like to access the DACL Moodle...

Contact Ralph Cullimore (via ralph.cullimore@devon.gov.uk) and request a username and password. Please say what subject(s) you teach.

If you would like to have your own area ('course') on Moodle then please contact Ralph and say what you would like your area called, and any other details you think might be relevant (subject, level etc).

You will then receive an email back with your username and password, and brief details of how to get in to the Moodle site. If you have requested your own course, you will receive brief information about that too.

Interesting statistics

We don't have the figures for Devon, but in 2007 **Cornwall** Adult Education Service found that around **90%** of **learners** had access to the Internet (78% via broadband).

Of the 100+ **tutors** surveyed in **Devon** in 2007, **95%** used a computer at home in one way or another and 93% used email (11% 'sometimes' and 82% 'often').