Enabling technology: Audio and video removing barriers to the lecture experience
John Lambert, Auckland University of Technology

The traditional podium lecture is an example of teaching that has always challenged those with sensory impairments, and many others too. The role of disability services has always been to support the individual, but the lesser known story is its role supporting the institution to be inclusive. The presenter will reflect on his experience of the roll-out of two alternatives to written lecture notes.

Disability services (DSS) have long supported disabled students by having human notetakers and sign language interpreters at lectures, and providing audio-recording devices to students. Audio-recording options in devices are commonplace now and AUT has a policy allowing audio recording of lectures. In 2018 DSS introduced Sonocent AudioNotetaker software. This aligns slide presentations with audio-recording, and text input. This has become a preferred option and feedback from students will be reported.

This year, AUT has introduced Panopto video-capture, which similarly aligns audio with a slide presentation, plus a video of the speaker. DSS has been involved from the earliest opportunity to leverage its potential. In its ‘default’ mode it is of benefit to the many students who take inadequate written notes for reasons which may include difficulties with dexterity; hearing; concentration; anxiety; or being absent. What is also possible is a transcript, to enable visually impaired students to navigate to the audio, by using a word search. Captions allow the hearing-impaired to read what they cannot hear.

Learning outcomes
- An understanding of the Social Model of Disability
- An understanding of Universal Design principles
- An overview of the features of Sonocent AudioNotetaker, a software product used by individuals
- An overview of the features of Panopto, a video-capture product used by institutions

Presenter
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