

Information Systems Graduate Profiles: On-line and Alumni Implications

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ABSTRACT

UCOL's focus to attract and retain students, because of the influence of recent government policy, involves evaluating multiple strategies. This paper explores the fresh fields of profiling computing degree graduates on-line as one means to this end.

Stories and achievements of computing graduates are worth celebrating. The graduate profiles of any course provide multiple benefits for prospective, graduand and graduate students; from course promotion to development of a learning community.

Historically, the venue of such celebrations for the majority of Association of Polytechnics in New Zealand, APNZ, members is the graduation ceremonies. APNZ is the collective voice for NZ Polytechnics and Institutes of Technology.

This poster details the plan for a web-site presence graduate profiles and testimonials of UCOL's Bachelor of Applied Information Systems degree.

An observation in 2003 of the 14 APNZ member's websites that deliver computing degrees shows that just two members had a testimonial or graduate profile of computer degree graduates. In the year 2000 no profiles were evident. A UCOL survey (March/April 2001) to all graduating students received few responses, which were all positive. However, the lack of convincing numbers meant that support for alumni was stopped.

This poster details the worth of alumni in polytechnics. At UCOL in 2000, interest in an alumni association was researched. At that time, there was an overwhelming view of disinterest. Currently, APNZ members do not provide alumni associations.

This UCOL computing graduate profile website is envisaged to be used to reunite and keep in contact with students and staff, provide careers advice, source industry project contacts, provide industry guest speakers, provide computing degree ambassadors, instill pride in the degree, and market continuing

learning opportunities. The terms of reference, TOR, for the web presence project outlined here will be put forward as a third year industry project. Readers are invited to model the TOR for their own context.