Introducing practice-led research: a collaborative approach

Meredith Beardmore

Liaison Librarian, Melbourne Polytechnic

meredithbeardmore@melbournepolytechnic.edu.au

I acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as the custodians of the unceded land on which I live, work, and create. I pay my respects to their elders past, present, and emerging.



Background

- Second year Bachelor of Music students
- Unit: Music Meaning, Aesthetics & Criticism
 - Strong focus on developing academic writing skills, critical thinking, reflective writing, research methods, and essay writing
- Three information literacy sessions embedded:
 - Critical thinking, evaluating info
 - Referencing
 - Practice-led research



Practice-led research session

Practice-led research:

"research which is initiated in practice, where questions, problems, challenges are identified and formed by the needs of practice and practitioners; and secondly, that the research strategy is carried out through practice, using predominantly methodologies and specific methods familiar to us as practitioners." (Gray 1998, p.3)

- Discussion-based session
- Flipped classroom in 2020, in person 2021

Gray, C 1998, 'Inquiry through practice: developing appropriate research strategies', in P. Strandman (ed.), *No Guru, No Method? Discussions on Art and Design Research*, University of Art & Design, Helsinki, pp. 82–95.



Take-homes & Further exploration

- Librarian-lecturer collaboration
- Librarian as facilitator
- Critical information literacy approach
- Undergraduate students may see themselves as researchers
- Frame the way they approach their coursework

