

Report: Weekend with GILP - 26 & 27 August 2006

The Weekend was generally successful with a total attendance of 32 graduate students. Workshop attendances for the Weekend totalled 159. Based on the 17 feedback sheets received, 16 students were either satisfied or very satisfied with the Weekend (10 satisfied, 6 very satisfied). One respondent expressed no opinion.

Consolidated Feedback:

Overall, how satisfied were you with this workshop?

If you tick either <i>Disagree</i> or <i>Strongly disagree</i> , your suggestions in Q5 below would be appreciated.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree
a) The workshops were relevant to my needs		2		7	7
b) The instructors presented the material clearly			1	9	6
c) The instructors answered questions effectively				10	7
d) The written materials were clear				8	8
e) The length of the sessions was about right		1	1	10	4

Please tick the boxes that best describe your thoughts about this program.

If you tick either <i>Disagree</i> or <i>Strongly disagree</i> , your suggestions in Q5 below would be appreciated.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree
f) The workshops were relevant to my needs		2		7	7
g) The instructors presented the material clearly			1	9	6
h) The instructors answered questions effectively				10	7
i) The written materials were clear				8	8
j) The length of the sessions was about right		1	1	10	4

Attendees: Approximately ninety percent of the respondents were PhD students. The remainder were Masters by coursework or Masters by thesis. Seventy-five percent of the respondents were full-time students. The Weekend attracted a cross-section of students representing a variety of disciplines, with the social sciences, biological sciences and economics being the most common, comprising over 75%. The Crawford School of Economics and Government and the Research School of Social Sciences were the most represented schools.

According to the feedback sheets, most students heard about the Weekend via email, followed closely by the ILP website. Word-of-mouth, from academic staff

and colleagues, was the second most effective way of communicating the Weekend.

Attendance at each workshop:

Introduction to Information Literacy	23
Producing the Thesis in Word A	8
Producing the Thesis in Word B	12
Producing the Thesis in Word C	11
Producing the Thesis in Word D	11
Managing the Thesis Production	12
Selecting & Searching Subject Databases	19
Web Searching and Evaluation	10
Search Strategies & Topic Analysis	18
Issues in Literature Review Writing	15
EndNote A	11
EndNote B	9

Staff involved in the Weekend with GILP were: Hans-Jörg Kraus (GILP), Karen Visser (ILP), Candida Spence (ILP), Gail Craswell (Academic Skills & Learning Centre), Bradley Cummings (School of Music), Jacqui Kempton (Chifley Library), Jim Berryman (GILP), Virginia Woodland, Jill Johnson.

Observations: Despite the positive feedback, the Weekend experienced some technical problems, epically affecting the training Room Crisp G018. These problems centred on the data projector, which was disconnected, and the settings on the trainer's PC, which did not mirror the projector.

The decision to hold the Saturday session in conjunction with the ANU's annual Open Day had two main advantages: firstly, catering was not required on this day; secondly, IT support was readily in place to help with the technical problems encountered.

The Sunday afternoon attendance was considerably lower than had been anticipated, especially for the finale session (3pm to 5pm). For example, only two students attended the second EndNote B session (out of eight enrolled).

Outcomes: It is advisable to remove Sunday sessions from future GILP programmes. IT support proved inadequate on Sunday, and numbers suggest that some students lost motivation. Recommendations include combining future Weekend with GILP sessions with Friday with GILP. Furthermore, streamline course enrolment paperwork by using ESP (on another system) for registrations. This may save administration time.