Including Options for Audio Books and/or Podcasts in reading lists

Title

Including Options for Audio Books and/or Podcasts in reading lists

Brief description

Students may have to commute long distances, or may have work or caring duties that mean that finding time to read can be difficult. In turn, they may have a specific learning difficulty or a sensory profile that means reading long texts is challenging. Providing the option of listening to an audio book, or linking on VLEs to podcast discussions or other digital platforms such as book festivals or author interviews, in addition to providing text options, can be helpful for some students in these circumstances, and enhances the suite of materials available to all students.

Mapping to UDL Principles

Engagement

- Choice is provided to students regarding the materials to engage with
- Greater opportunity to engage via a format that may be more intuitive or appealing to students
- Through experimentation, students can assess which formats are optimal for their learning.

Representation

- Options are offered regarding representation
- Supports decoding, for instance, where audio accompanies a text.

Action and Expression

- Demonstrates multiple means of communication
- Can facilitate development of digital skills.

Three ways this Plus One helps students

Students can

1. access learning materials in a more flexible manner

2. enjoy their learning more where barriers, such as those to do with interacting with written texts, are eliminated

3. learn how to interact with other media which may have applicability beyond the university.
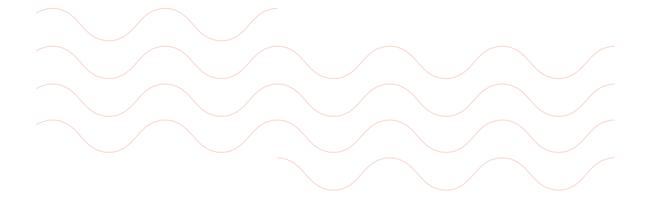
Key considerations for enactment

Risk

Low

Time

Time will be needed to source audio books and/or podcasts. The lecturer may also need to learn how to access and share different types of audio files.

Technology

Technology implications for students are low as audio books and podcasts can be listened to on many devices including smart phones, iPad and laptops.

Further information

See **CAST UDL Guidelines** and **Maynooth University Plus One resources**.

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