

Integrating the teaching of academic discourse into the disciplines: Proceedings of the Language and Academic Skills Conference, La Trobe University Bundoora, 21-22 November

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Extract from the Preface:

"The theme was chosen with the aim of exploring the trend, both in Australia and overseas, towards extending instruction in academic skills from adjunct programs run by separate student support services to the subjects in which students are enrolled in their undergraduate courses. We were aware of a number of ways in which academic skills teachers have collaborated with faculty staff to draw students' attention explicitly to the academic discourse of their discipline and to what they must do to become competent in it [164] participants heard forty-two papers and seven shorter contributions, most of which are collected in the present volume.

.... The papers ... clustered around a number of related questions:

In what ways is it/ is it not good for the students/ the academic skills tutors/ the disciplines to integrate teaching of academic discourse into the disciplines?

To what extent is academic discourse discipline-specific?

How can we identify the characteristic features of the discourse of a discipline?

How can we raise students'/ tutors' awareness of these discourses?

How might these issues be different when teaching postgraduate students? Disadvantaged students? Overseas students? Students from non English speaking backgrounds?

How can we initiate/ sustain fruitful collaborations with teachers in the disciplines?

How can we mobilise all the resources of the institution which can help with this effort(e.g. peer tutoring, the library)?"

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