Can you concurrent?

Accelerated changes in library education

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What is concurrent and why does it matter?

"*In a concurrent classroom, the teacher is teaching one group of students in class while simultaneously teaching another group of students online.*

Teaching two groups of students in two separate learning landscapes at the same time presents a variety of challenges."

Dr. Catlin Tucker, 2021 on Studysync.

How did we get here?

✓ University education has not been solely face-to-face for quite some time.

✓ Learning Management Systems have continually evolved and become prominent in supporting university teaching environments.

✓ The pandemic has accelerated the need for concurrent teaching.

✓ Online education has been steadily evolving, this hybrid mode appears to be the next step.

Some experiences so far

✓ Delivering the same content is likely to take more time.

✓ With a class in front of you it is easy to forget about the students online.

✓ If one thing goes wrong challenges can compound quickly which can induce some anxiety.

✓ Technical issues such as microphone feedback noise can prevent people from engaging.

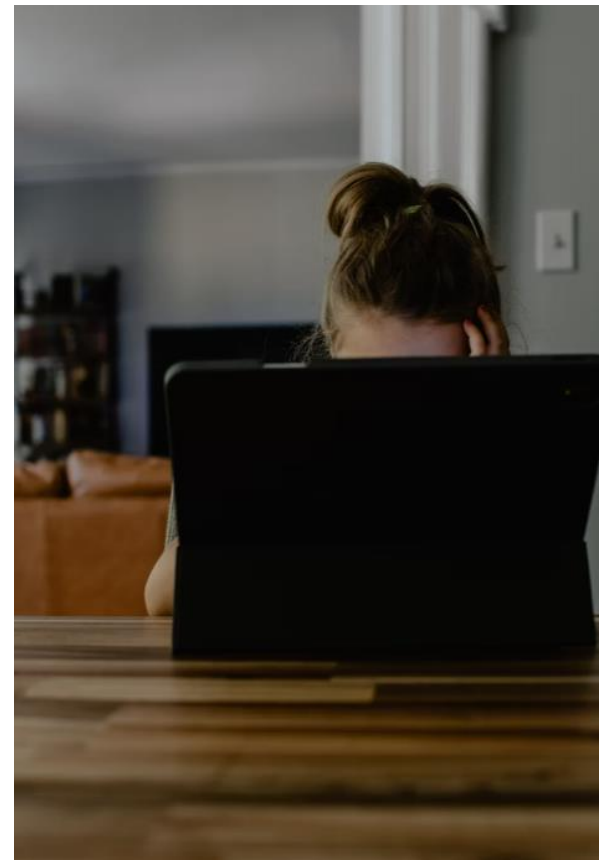| The good	The bad
Hybrid teaching = reach more students	Tech issues! + time lost due to tech failure
New possibilities for creativity and opportunity for student engagement	Lack of control of classroom/tech setup
Library staff are challenged to learn new skills	Loss of connection with online students

Photo by Kelly Sikkema on Unsplash

Findings – "The Wild West of Teaching"

This mode of teaching and education is not going away, with many universities forced into this model to facilitate student needs. Universities have invested in technology and some in skills development in this area which they expect to be a new standard.

At these early stages we don't have a lot of research on concurrent teaching. Requiring some more detailed research. What we did find is that some teachers are really enjoying the possibilities and advantages (detail advantages) and some are struggling.

Tips – Prepare for class

- ✓ Ask about the delivery mode of each class – is it f2f, online, or concurrent?

- ✓ Plan for tech failure – have a back-up plan.

- ✓ Get to class early to test out the tech.

Photo by Chris Montgomery on Unsplash

Tips – Class time

- ✓ Check-in with the online students regularly.

- ✓ Nominate a chat monitor – the teacher, a student, a colleague.

- ✓ Encourage online students to turn on their mic.

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Tips – Reflect and share

✓ Reflect on your own teaching practice – what worked? What didn't work?

✓ Share your experiences with your team – create a Community of Practice, a teaching wiki, a journal club, or a regular meeting.

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Final thoughts...

Concurrent teaching is likely to evolve quickly and will improve over time.

This is a new skill, we're all learning.
Go easy on yourself!