The benefit and impact of online tools for microscopy and microanalysis training and education in core facilities.

3000+ researchers per annum using the AMMRF

1/3 are new users requiring training

MyScope™ training for advanced research

MyScope™ flexible online modules are designed to address microscopy training challenges with:
- interactive questionnaires to help the user make choices and tailor their learning environment
- resource customisation for academics and trainers
- self-guided tutorials with animations and videos
- glossary of specialist language
- virtual instruments familiarise users with microscopes
- competency tests ensure readiness for hands-on learning

virtual instrument

MyScope enhances positive attitudes towards online learning. It engenders positive attitudes towards online assessment and enhances knowledge.

effectiveness & impact

The impact and effectiveness of MyScope has been growing since it was launched in November 2011.

28% increase in acquisition of appropriate knowledge with use of MyScope before hands-on learning (Mann-Whitney test; W = 225.0; P = 0.007; N=20 exposed vs. 19 non-exposed students)

66% of final year biomedical students felt MyScope was useful in assisting in-class research projects

Initial observations show:
- on-instrument training reduced by one-third
- users building competency and confidence more quickly
- the balance between instrument availability for research versus new researcher training is improved

Conventional group or one-to-one training with the instrument has limitations:
- core facilities need to balance the beam-time of expensive, complex instrumentation between active research and training new users, who will ultimately perform research
- limited specialist staff and time are available to train researchers
- diversity of the researchers and their projects

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