

## **Biography: Mark Nichols**

I am an open, flexible, and distance education advocate with a strong international focus.

I have a PhD from the University of Otago, New Zealand, exploring the formational experience of distance education students (2014). The PhD built on the academic activity resulting from a Master of Arts in open and Distance Education (MAODE), which I earned with distinction from the Open University, UK graduating in 2000.

My employment since 2000 has focused on elements of ODFL and online education, including a three-year role as Director, TEL for the Open University, UK. I have also been an active member of professional bodies at Executive/Board levels, including FLANZ, Ascilite, EDEN, and more recently the ICDE. I have served as an LMS administrator, tutor trainer, researcher, change agent, and senior executive supporting academic staff and courseware developers in ODFL - so I have a broad exposure to the possibilities and activities aligned with our field of practice.

I am an EDEN Fellow, Commonwealth of Learning Chair, and ongoing host of the Leaders & Legends of Online Learning podcast (which includes over 80 interviews with the world's leading ODFL experts). I am also on several international journal editorial boards and maintain an active research profile.