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Digital Technologies: The challenges for a modern law school.

Tina Hart, Melanie Fellowes & Abdul Jabbar
Aims of this paper

• To share our pedagogical experiences in using digital technologies.

• To continue our reflection upon the adjustments that are made to our courses.

• To recognise student and staff challenges
What is E-Learning?

- Njenga and Fourie

“...[T]he use of electronic technology and content in teaching and learning. It includes, but is not limited to, the use of the internet; television; streaming video and video conferencing; on line text and multimedia; and mobile technologies.”
Students at Huddersfield

- The LLB Distance Learning student.
- The Graduate Diploma in Law student

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Bloom to Honour’s Level

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Staff Expectations

- The students had all of the material.
- They were independent Learners
- Capable of reflection

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Data collection

- Staff interviews
- Student panel meetings

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
What did we find in 2011?

• Satisfied our objective to widen participation
• Students liked the dynamic nature of the modules
• Students preferred flexibility in the feedback process
• Student engagement was low
• Student reflection was limited
• The staff – student relationship became disconnected

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
What have we changed?

• Reinstated campus induction (but made it optional)
• Tutors provide detailed individual feedback on examination type questions.
• Reflective blogs are used only for the research project
• Some tutors are using blogs in place of discussion boards.
We have the technology!

- Announcements
- Turnitin
- GradeMark
- Interactive quizzes
- Screen and podcasts
- Wikis
- Elluminate
- Skype
- Discussion Boards

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Student Engagement and Progress (GDL)

I still like the instant feedback and I am much more engaged!!

My assignment grades have improved.

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I am not sure about these quizzes. I will just try to get the answers.

I am not sure how these quizzes are going to help me in the exam!

I will try to have a go at the formative assessment.
Staff views

So many staff development sessions but not enough time.

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Staff views

I would like to do more, but there is no time.

What will happen when the placement students helping us leave?

All the good staff development sessions take place when I am teaching.

At least the placement students have left us guides. I will miss them though!

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
The challenges faced

Providing more interactivity for the students through multimedia elements such as screencasts & podcasts

To help students feel part of the institution and to be able to integrate with other students

Developing student engagement within an impersonal environment

Training staff to develop moderation and technical skills

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Conclusion

Don’t underestimate ......

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