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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.”

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Students at Huddersfield

- The LLB Distance Learning student.

- The Graduate Diploma in Law student

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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
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

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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.

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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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Student engagement (LLB)

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!
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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