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Preparing Students

Some limitations of using ePortfolio are really to do with the training of students to use the technology. We have found that because we need to introduce our students from very early on in the module to the software, we have a training session virtually on the second day that they attend class and we spend quite a lot of time introducing them to the software, showing them what it will do and how they can interact with it.

The problem is of course that several weeks down the line when they are ready to put information into the e-portfolio they have forgotten and that's a common problem I think when introducing new technologies to people. So we are still working with the students to determine the best way to ensure that they understand how to use the technology so that they can really get on and start to use it early on in the module.

We have also found that we have to provide several training sessions, so after the introductory one we ask someone to come in and do further training about 2 or 3 months later and then before they submit their final assignment we have someone come back and give them yet more training. Like most people, students sometimes turn their attention to this at the last minute so many months down the road of course they may well have forgotten most of the technology, so that is an issue for us.