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Piloting, informing, embedding: ePDP in a School of Arts, Media and Education.

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“Piloting, Informing, Embedding: ePDP in a School of Arts, Media and Education”.

**Background**
This interactive poster presents an update of the results and challenges faced during the implementation of two pilot studies of an ePDP exercise in the School of Arts, Media and Education (SAME), at the University of Bolton (UoB). The inclusion of PDP (personal development planning) is a University requirement for all programmes and traditionally embedded through a text based/visual journal approach in Art and Design. The experience has provided the school with sound information to inform full implementation of ePDP and to further explore the optimum process, infrastructure and research that needs to be undertaken to support future implementation more effectively. Additional value has been gained through the inclusion of this research in the Action Research Network on Researching and Evaluating Personal Development Planning and e-Portfolio Practice (NARN-ePDP) project.

**Description of approach used**
In 2008 the SAME eLearning team (e-Team) tested the development of an ePDP resource within the University’s WebCT Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). The results of that experience informed a second pilot using a more flexible VLE (Moodle). Art and Design were chosen to undertake both pilots as there is experience of working visually in a PDP context. This study relates to the experiences of two staff and two cohorts of students from the SAME (150 students approximately).

Tutor led demonstrations were delivered and students were willing to engage in the new platform. Minor adjustments were made based on student recommendations and tutor findings. The Poster will describe the process using Cowans’ reflective diagram to underpin the approach.

**Results of work done**
While Moodle resulted in a more flexible VLE for ePDP, cross platform and cross browser issues were apparent particularly the compatibility with Apple Mac’s used in Art & Design.

**Conclusion**
The culture of ePDP is slowly changing due to the greater involvement of students and staff with technology (within and out the university). The challenge is to ensure that the change is fully understood and embedded within the SAME, and this is being managed by implementing further training for staff & students, within the agreed VLE platform the university is progressing to.

**KEYWORDS:** ePDP, VLE, Art & Design, eLearning, flexibility, pilot

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