

	e-testing
Centre/Organisation	Hyfforddiant Mon Training
Programme(s)	Level 2 technical certificates for hospitality and catering, retail and customer service basic skills diagnostics on desktop and laptop computers European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL)
Awarding Body(s)	City & Guilds, EDI/Goal, GQA (glass and glazing), EAL
Learner numbers	6 catering and hospitality (e-testing) 20 piloting e-portfolio
Contact details	Alan Jones

Background

Hyfforddiant Mon Training is a DCELLS-approved work-based learning provider that operates under the umbrella of the Isle of Anglesey County Council. Almost all students recruited are placed/employed within industry, commerce and business, or within the local authority.

The objectives of its pilot were to:

- provide initial feedback on the guide related to its use for the centre (desk research)
- provide an improved e-testing process for six catering and hospitality learners
- use the guide to help select a suitable e-portfolio system.

How they started

Hyfforddiant Mon has been operating an e-testing facility for the last three years, however they used e-futures and the guidance provided in the e-assessment –guide to effective practice to help plug the gaps in its existing strategy. It found that the e-testing role matrix was particularly useful.

They were able to improve on existing systems and structures of the team and the centre is still in the process of adopting most of the suggestions offered.

For the pilot the administration/IT team were asked to look at and use an e-portfolio system, as this team were best placed to determine which system would be the best for their use.

Progress to date

At present, Hyfforddiant Mon is still at the stage of deciding which e-portfolio to pilot. To help decide which system to select, the centre will be using the functionality checklist in annex A6 of the guide on the efutures website. The cost of the systems will also be taken into account.

Due to the relatively short interval of time of the pilot period the centre has not moved as far forward as it would have liked. However, three systems have been demonstrated. Two were relevant for the purpose but the third was not. Before making a final decision, the centre wants to look at more systems.

In the meantime, this has prompted the centre to develop a system devised in-house, which it admits is far more basic and offers at the moment a bank of resources. However, it gets Hyfforddiant Mon started down the e-portfolio route.

Key issues encountered to date

1. Convincing staff that e-assessment is better than conventional systems has been a challenge. Current achievement rates have increased but other factors as well as e-assessment may have contributed to this.
2. Staff development issues in learning how to use new software systems and new technological advances are proving costly. It is hoped, though, that this investment will pay dividends in the returns that the centre and learners will receive as a result of e-testing.

Staff who have been identified as having a significant role in e-assessment are well-qualified and have considerable experience. These members of staff attend forums and events linked with e-learning. The centre looks to these people to provide training and assistance for other members of staff.

Update (August 2008)

Hyfforddiant Mon have piloted a small e – portfolio system for 20 users and will be evaluating progress over the next couple of months.