

Dr Barbara Lee

Hi I'm Dr Barbara Lee and I am the Reader in Learning & Teaching

When we initially scoped the project out we wanted to get two things out of it. The first was that we wanted to be sure that it would work with our existing virtual learning environment because it's very important that we have something that students can access with one click. They're online, they want to use it, so there they are.

The second was that we wanted it to be very usable for students, so we surveyed students, asked them what they wanted, how they would want to use it, we did a lot of road testing with them on the portfolio itself as well as the help sheets that had been created for them.

The end result is to try and produce something that students will want to use throughout the course for their own personal development. So it's got to be a creative space that they feel that they can own.

I think we've learnt a lot about personal development planning when we started this project and we realised that it is very difficult if you impose something on students and ask them to do things for you because it takes the emphasis from the fact it's about them and their personal self. So we wanted to do something that they could use but we also needed to make sure that it fit with all the other institutional practices, so we needed to have involvement from the careers service to make sure that the new product would use the CV planner and the other tools they created. We wanted to talk to the faculties and to ask them about the different ways they might want to make use of it in their teaching, and obviously the learning technologists themselves, and the investigations they did and the way that they looked out into the mahara community to keep improving and perfecting a product that would really be usable by the students that's (I think) made this a long term successful project.

<https://vimeo.com/121127308>