

Visualising the future: creating new paper-based resources

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Despite the emphasis on online resources in recent years, research by the LearnHigher CETL has shown that many students still prefer paper-based materials, which can enable them to visualise, interact with, and personalise their learning in a more tangible way. This workshop will focus on two innovative designs – for an academic year planner and a drawing/planning sheet – that have been used successfully with students at several universities.

A strength of the LearnHigher consortium is the opportunity for HEIs to collaborate on projects to produce learning development resources. In this case, it was a three-way collaboration between the University of Brighton (who lead the LearnHigher visual practices area), a graphic design graduate and the University of Reading, who lead research into student time management. Building on the initial success of the 'Big Draw' folding sheets by the same designer, a half year planner was piloted and evaluated at the University of Reading. Student feedback was used to refine the final design for use in several partner universities during 2008-9, and it will now be made available across the sector.

This interactive workshop will enable participants to:

- try out both the resources and take samples away
- see how different groups of students have used them, often in unexpected ways
- discuss their own experiences of creating and evaluating materials for students.

We will also consider the benefits and challenges involved in producing a new resource collaboratively and the lessons that can be applied to other similar projects.

Presenters:

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