

Transcript of Richard Francis (Head of E-learning, Oxford Brookes University), talking about the RADAR project – October 2009

RADAR forms part of our E-learning strategy, in fact quite a fundamental part in our E-learning strategy, because the strategy is based on the development of a learning environment which is personalised to the needs of the learners, and which is one which is making maximum use of our digital assets.

RADAR is a blended repository, meaning that it will contain not only research outputs but also learning and teaching resources. That means that the virtual learning environment will give learners access to a fuller, a broader range of resources than they would otherwise have had. This means that we are able to put into practice one of the goals of the strategy which is to link teaching and research more effectively for the benefit of the learner, and also to make more rational effective use of our resources. So we have an efficiency gain, and we also have a strategic gain in terms of linking teaching and research.

Until now, it has been difficult for staff to manage their learning resources in the virtual learning environment. If, for example, they wanted to share resources across modules, they would simply have to duplicate the resource and upload it to a different module. But with RADAR, we have the possibility of locating resources in a single location and making those resources available across modules. This should make it easier to keep resources up to date as well, and to avoid the phenomenon where different versions of a resource are being accessed by students in different courses, which could give rise to confusion or even situations where the information is not up to date or actually incorrect. So it should be very much better use of the resources, more efficient management, avoiding duplication and actually the time consuming process of locating resources when they are stored in different places.

For example, if the course team changes because a member of staff leaves or another member joins, it should be much easier to locate resources with RADAR, because they will be located in a single location and in a single version.

For more details see www.brookes.ac.uk/go/radar