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# Crynoldebau / abstracts

An Effective Use of Electronic Learning Portfolios for Teaching Islamic Studies in Aberystwyth University

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The 21st century as a digital age is characterized by the increased accessibility of information and knowledge through the medium of sophisticated technological tools. The main aim of this paper is to show how educational technology can be used effectively to help students construct knowledge when teaching Islamic studies at the Department of International Politics in Aberystwyth University. The first part of this paper summarizes the differences between information sharing and knowledge construction with reference to the essence of knowledge as Aristotelian ‘episteme’ (theoretical knowledge) and technê (practical knowledge: know-how); and the extent which the former process is created by the use of Information Technology (IT) while the latter is enhanced by Educational Technology (ET). The second part explains how innovative uses of ET in the form of (e-Portfolios) on the Grade Centre of Blackboard have been developed at undergraduate level for formative assessment and feedback since 2008. The paper concludes by presenting some reflections and limitations on how effective use of ET can help students to (de)construct knowledge and become critical thinkers while studying Islam and Middle Eastern politics as part of international politics curriculum.