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JALT CALL SIG

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Presenting content to students using the functionalities of a digital portfolio: An overview

As web-based applications such as learning managements systems (LMS) and digital databases mature, so does language teachers use of these mediums for teaching and learning. While the functionality of these systems provides more visual-rich presentations and more flexible modes of delivery they can also serve to confuse and frustrate. For example,

—How are access rights to content controlled ensuring students access materials appropriate to their level of learning?

—How does a tutor release supplementary materials to students having difficulties with particular concepts?

—When does a tutor release supplementary materials to students who need further cognitive challenges?

—How does a tutor maintain consistency and accuracy of content across multiple course offerings? In essence how is content timed, sequenced and released to students.

There are a number of online methods available that address these issues. For example,

—Selected Release: In this scenario students' access to content is based on the completion of selected tasks.

—Conceptual Mapping: Material is presented using a logical sequence that is visually presented.

This interactive presentation will present a further solution and be focused on three topics. Topic one will briefly review the concept of using teaching portfolios in educational settings. Topic two will firstly, explore the functionality of the Exabis Portfolio block in the learning management system Moodle and secondly, illustrate how this functionality can be used to present content to students. Topic three will demonstrate how the Exabis block is being piloted to digital content presented to Japanese-English language students.