

C6 – Integrating technology into researcher training

Outline

A large proportion of early career researchers are well versed in using the latest social networking and other technologies. By embracing the use of such developments in the design and delivery of researcher training programmes, this will attract those researcher communities to attend and will make training sessions more dynamic.

Incorporating technologies into training programmes will also show researchers how they can be used to raise their global professional profile in today's competitive market, in addition to using these technologies socially.

The use of technologies can also enhance the outcomes of training by providing interactive resources before and after face-to-face activities.

Allowing researchers attending training to record their experiences using blogs and Twitter will prove valuable in gathering evidence to measure the impact of researcher training activities.

Topics covered:

- exploring the different types of e-learning and social networking technologies from different perspectives:
 - the HEI view – how easy is it to learn and practise technologies?
 - the regional view – how can technologies be used to enhance regional activities for researchers and staff supporting researcher development?
 - the e-learner's view – which technologies should trainers tap into?
- categorising training activities and possible applications of technology in training programmes
- demonstrating use of appropriate technologies, using blogs, Google docs, video, etc
- practising technologies, such as embedding video into a blog, embedding slides from Slideshare, creating an online questionnaire, etc.

Outcomes

Participants gained:

- a greater awareness of the possible technologies that enhance researcher training
- an understanding of which technologies to apply to different areas of researcher training
- practical knowledge of technologies that could form part of researcher training.

It was stressed that technology should not be used for technology's sake; it needs to have a purpose and value.

The workshop also identified a need for further support and training in this area.