VLEs in Legal Education: A case study approach to sharing good practice
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Abstract
Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs) are some of the fastest-growing areas of legal education. Very little is known of their design, their users, content, drivers, blockers. In part this is because most aspects of their development and use are often hidden behind institutional and departmental intranets. In part also, it is because the line between a virtual learning environment and managed learning environments has become blurred. The UK Centre for Legal Education (UKCLE) together with BILETA has funded a project which seeks to examine VLEs in legal education, consider a set of guidelines into VLE best practice and provide a much-needed resource for law staff and students. This paper will discuss three of the case studies chosen to demonstrate good practice and launch the interactive website which has been developed to showcase the studies. As will be shown the site has been designed to allow other authors to easily contribute their own VLEs as case studies and thus complement UKCLE and BILETA's resource database. The site also reveals interesting comparisons in theory, approach and method amongst the case studies, and these are explored in greater detail in our presentation and in the project website. Set out as it is in a quasi-thematic manner, the site encourages users to explore these adjacencies, and to explore the varieties of approaches to legal e-learning offered by the current case studies.