

# Mapping Software Helping Support Students' Learning



## THE CHALLENGE

Claro works with clients who have a range of disabilities, from dyslexia and ADHD through to medical and mental health conditions, including sight and hearing impairment. As such, she helps students to become more familiar with the use of assistive technology and common computer software to secure essential qualifications.

"We're here to support students and help them get the qualifications they need in order to achieve their

potential." Suzanne says. "Technology can help break down barriers and level the playing field. By showing our clients how best to use the technology at their disposal to demonstrate their academic abilities, we empower them to get the qualifications their talent and hard work deserves."

## THE SOLUTION

Suzanne uses a number of different technologies and products to help her clients study. Mapping software, in particular, helps those students who do not think in a linear process to visualise their tasks and break down what they need to do to complete assignments.

"The students I work with face a number of different challenges. First, there's the work they are being asked to do, and in that respect they are no different from other students. Then, there is the issue of overcoming the obstacles that their condition presents. For instance, conventional teaching styles and study methods present difficulties for a person with dyslexia. They may need support to develop work strategies that play to their strengths and are more in tune with their preferred learning style. Finally many of my clients work long hours to complete their assignments and

meet deadlines, so they need to have tools that will help them to manage their time."

Suzanne's training approach is tailored to each client's independently assessed needs. "We need flexibility in the range of products we use, as different students are assigned different programmes according to their individual requirements". One of the products Suzanne uses is Mindjet, from information visualisation company Mindjet. "I've been using Mindjet for a number of years, since version 7, and it continues to get better with each version. It allows users to quickly and easily map out information in an intuitive visual framework, whether it's from text files or a YouTube® video. That instantly takes away a problem that many of my clients face – where to start."

## THE RESULTS

Suzanne teaches her clients to use mapping software not just for structuring essays and other work but also for time management and organisation. "Software such as Mindjet allows my clients to switch from the big picture to an area of detail very quickly, and I've found that really helps them to engage with their work and think clearly. Being able to link a map topic to a relevant



As an accredited trainer with Claro Training, Suzanne Woodside specialises in technology that assists people with learning difficulties to overcome barriers and find better ways of using IT to realise their potential. She addresses clients' learning needs and shows them how to use visual mapping to help enhance their learning. Visual mapping helps students to organise their work, plan their assignments and communicate their ideas clearly. Suzanne provides specialist technology training that means the software is used to its full capability, leading to more efficient learning with a successful outcome for the student.

### CHALLENGE

Assist people with learning difficulties to overcome barriers and find better ways of using IT to realise their full potential.

### SOLUTION

Mapping software helps students who do not think in a linear process to visualise their tasks and break down what they need to complete assignments.

### RESULT

Mindjet allows clients to switch from the big picture to an area of detail very quickly and helps them engage with their work and think clearly.



website means that people who might struggle with book-based research are able to access internet resources and easily bring this into their work.”

“Many of my clients are arts students with a succession of essays to write. They may have tried to draw spider diagrams on paper in the past but often this is an unsatisfactory process as it doesn’t easily accommodate changes. It then takes them a long time to write up all their research and organise it into a finished piece of work. Using Mindjet they can bring all their information together — whether it’s online material, notes from lectures or other bits of text and graphics - and access it with a click of a button. Using a visual medium helps them to sort out the connections between ideas more easily; they can add detail where it is needed without ‘losing the wood for the trees’. The very process of constructing a visual map can help them to clarify their thinking and work out the best order in which to present their ideas. The fact that Mindjet integrates with products such as Microsoft® Word® and PowerPoint® means students can quickly and easily export the contents of their map into the format required for their assignment. Students can also plan what they have to do and when they need to do it using the task and time management tools which are conveniently integrated with Outlook®, so they can generate to-do lists and keep track of their work.”

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**Suzanne Woodside**, Accredited Trainer, Claro Training

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