How to transfer video from Panasonic HDD camcorder to a PC

(Digital video recorder or Digital camcorders)
Keeping it simple there are three kinds of digital video recorders and the distinction is how they capture the video image:

1. Mini DV (which is a mini tape - tape can hold about 45 minutes of video footage)
2. DVD - records directly onto a DVD disc
3. HDD (Hard Disk Drive)

From my experience if you want to edit on a PC with Movie Maker the mini-DV recorders are a lot easier than both DVD and HDD. With a mini-DV recorder you can capture the video footage directly in Movie Maker. With the other types of recorders you are more likely to have to install the software that comes with the video recorder which is an issue if you are trying to keep the whole process simple. (NOTE: the software that comes with these devices normally has editing functions it is just that we use Movie Maker for a range of applications so it makes it easier to stick with using just Movie Maker).

JVC Everio GZ-MG26AA
With the video recorders in the College Learning Resource Centre’s JVC Everio 20 GB Hard Disk Drive Recorder (GZ-MG26AA) you will need to install the PowerDirector Express from the disc that is in the box with the Video Recorder. Then you copy the video onto the computer using the mini USB cable (Frances, has a similar model of JV video recorder and all she has to do is change the file extension from .mob to .mpg). However this is not working with this video recorder. To edit with Movie Maker you will need to:

1. Open up PowerDirector Express, convert video to .avi format (follow diagrams below)
2. Open up Movie Maker, import .avi video and edit in Movie Maker.
1. Left click and drag clip onto timeline

2. Now you need to save movie in a format that you can open in Movie Maker.

3. Click on create File

4. Select AVI

5. Give your movie a name

6. Close PowerProducer Express. Open up Movie Maker and click on Import Video