

Using the e-Portfolio as an Student Learning Assessment Tool

What is an E-Portfolio?

- ▶ A purposeful collection of student work that exhibits the efforts, progress, and achievements in one or more areas.
- ▶ A virtual collection of student work

Why Use the ePortfolio?

- ▶ **Pedagogical change** in higher education, with greater emphasis on student-centered active learning
- ▶ **Enhances users' technological capacity** as they become more proficient users of software and other tools
- ▶ **Demands for accountability** in higher education
- ▶ **Transition between employment and education** – “an education passport” that allows students to showcase or demonstrate their learning and transfer it to their professional career (i.e. integrative learning)
- ▶ **Flexibility** (i.e. can be used for various purposes such as enriched learning, career development, and assessment, to name a few)

Who uses e-Portfolio Info?

- ▶ Current students
- ▶ Course instructors
- ▶ Prospective students
- ▶ Experiential learning sites
- ▶ Prospective employers
- ▶ Graduate school admissions committees and faculty
- ▶ Professional organizations
- ▶ Alumni
- ▶ Grantors

Examples of ePortfolio Usage

- ▶ High Schools as examples of student development and preparedness for post-secondary education
- ▶ Community Colleges – to enhance the link between 2-year and 4-year colleges/universities
- ▶ Colleges and Universities – general education experiences, capstone courses, to demonstrate proficiency in the profession, assessment, etc.
- ▶ Higher education system requirements as evidence of institutional effectiveness

Software Tools for e-Portfolios

- ▶ Digital Measures (JSU Activity Insight – Students)
- ▶ Canvas
- ▶ Googleapps
- ▶ Nuventive
- ▶ Interfolio
- ▶ Html-FrontPage
- ▶ Authorware
- ▶ Blogs
- ▶ Wiki (Wikipedia.com)
- ▶ LinkedIn
- ▶ PowerPoint
- ▶ Keynote (Apple software)

E-Portfolios may consist of templates or self created Web pages.

Steps to Developing e-Portfolios

- **Collection:** the gathering of items or artifacts based on the portfolio's purpose, audience, and future use. The student collects all work/artifacts.
- **Selection:** the development of criteria for choosing items/artifacts to include in the portfolio based on established learning objectives.
- **Reflection:** Explain how the particular work/artifact illustrates mastery of specific curriculum requirements or learning goals.

Mantra: Collect – Select – Reflect

Examples of e-Portfolio Artifacts

- ▶ Writing samples
- ▶ Photographs, artwork
- ▶ Videos
- ▶ Research projects, publications
- ▶ Observations by peers and mentors
- ▶ Recognitions and awards, academic achievements, professional advancement
- ▶ Reflections on the evidence

How to Assess e-Portfolios

- ▶ Select an e-Portfolio tool;
- ▶ Assist students with learning to use the selected tool proficiently;
- ▶ Establish a standardized format for courses, degree programs, or similar disciplines;
- ▶ Establish a schedule for updating and reviewing the portfolio content;
- ▶ Specify acceptable artifacts for inclusion in the portfolio;
- ▶ Establish and publicize assessment criteria, tools, methods and frequency;
- ▶ Use multiple reviewers (e.g. faculty and peers) where appropriate; and,
- ▶ Require students to self-assess (reflect) within the e-portfolio, and incorporate their learning into future projects.

Closing Comments

This presentation is intended to serve as an introduction to the use of the e-portfolio as an assessment tool. The following sample sites demonstrate how other colleges and universities are currently using this exciting tool.

Student Generated ePortfolio Galleries

- ▶ Pennsylvania State University:
www.portfolio.psu.edu/gallery
- ▶ San Francisco State University:
<http://eportfolio.sfsu.edu/gallery.php>
- ▶ LaGuardia Community College:
www.eportfolio.lagcc.cuny.edu/scholars/sp07.html

Campus Uses of ePortfolios

- ▶ Inter/National Coalition for Electronic Portfolio Research – www.ncepr.org
- ▶ Dr. Helen Barrett's Electronic Portfolio resource site: www.electronicportfolios.org
- ▶ The International ePortfolio movement – www.eife-l.org/about

Campus Uses of ePortfolios

- ▶ IUPUI Assessment Conference –
www.planning.iupui.edu/conferences/national/nationalconf.html
- ▶ Minnesota ePortfolio project –
www.efoliominnesota.com
- ▶ California State Universities ePortfolio project –
<http://teachingcommons.cdl.edu/eportfolio/index.html>
- ▶ Spelman College –
<http://www.spelman.edu/spelfolio/forfacultytutorials.shtml>

References

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Gathercoal, Paul, et al. Web-Based Electronic Portfolios, EDUCAUSE Quarterly, No. 2, 2002, pp.29-37.

White, Mary, et al. The E-Portfolio: An Assessment Tool for Institutional Effectiveness. A presentation during Assessment Spotlight, Jackson State University, October 27, 2009.