

E-Portfolios

e-portfolios can serve a range of purposes:

- Providing evidence in support of a job application, professional accreditation or application for further study
- Collecting evidence against a set of criteria or learning outcomes for a qualification
- Providing a record of student achievements and needs, to help transition to further study or employment
- Supporting reflective learning, discussion, formative and summative assessment
- Supporting personal development planning (PDP) and continuing professional development (CPD)
- Showcasing a students work to potential employers or others to view online

JISC (2008)

Why would I use technology to aid the assessment of a portfolio?

- It can be accessed via the web from a variety of locations
- Easy to organise and manage evidence (linking to criteria and learning outcomes if required)
- Easy cross-referencing between items without having to create copies
- Supports multi-modal evidence (text, audio, video) in a variety of formats
- Easily shareable with a variety of people (peers, tutors, employers)
- Some systems support customisation making the portfolio more personal
- Receive feedback from others about the content of the portfolio
- Can provide a lifelong learning tool to be taken with the student when they leave the University

How do I use technology to do this?

'Evidence suggests that a bolt-on approach to e-Portfolio implementation fails to engage either practitioners or learners' (p.16, JISC 2008). By embedding

activities that feed into the e-portfolio throughout the course (across modules), prompts students to be continually recording and reflecting upon their learning. The purpose of the portfolio is reinforced and helps them to understand why they are being asked to create it.

If you are using the e-Portfolio as part of an assessment it is important to make it clear to the student what it is that you want them to create. This can be done by making the criteria for the assessment as explicit as possible and also by providing examples or templates. Although this moves away from the personalised to the somewhat prescribed, it can make them easier to assess.

There are a wide variety of ways to create an e-Portfolio some more complex than others. The option you choose is largely dependent on what the students are producing and in what format you require to see it. e-Portfolios can be used with other tools which host evidence, for instance [YouTube](#) for videos, [LinkedIn](#) for a CV, blogs for reflection, and online storage services like [Microsoft OneDrive](#) and [Google Drive](#) for documents and presentations.

PebblePad - This option links in to University systems, providing a seamless transition between Course Resources (Blackboard) and PebblePad. It allows you to create template workbooks for students to complete, alongside an assessment tool which receives submissions enabling you to mark and leave feedback on students work. Students can also take the portfolio with them when they leave the University.

WordPress - this enables students to create their own portfolio structuring this either through a series of blog posts or web pages. It provides them with the ability to understand how to construct and build their own website. This can be done wither using the Universities internal WordPress system or on the worldwide WordPress tool.

Google Sites - this tool works well for portfolios where you want students to start with a template to complete but does require some administration and does not link to University systems requiring students to have a Google account.

Course Resources Blog - This tool within Course Resources enables students to create a private blog where they can collect together their reflections adding attachments, embedding video and links which contribute towards the assessment criteria.

Good Practice

[Using an online gallery to support student development and feedback](#)

References

JISC (2008) [e-portfolios: Tools for 21st century learning](#). [online]. (accessed 26 March 2015)

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