



e-Portfolio for the Physical Sciences

Physical Sciences Centre

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Project Outline

Introduction

A number of e-portfolio systems have already been developed, such as LUCID, PADSHE and Profile. These are useful generic systems used by various institutions but have mixed take up across some disciplines simply because of their generic nature. In the physical sciences, personal development planning (PDP) and the e-portfolio systems providing the mechanism for recording student progress is seen as particularly awkward. This is because many academics and students have difficulty relating the discipline specific PDP to a generic portfolio.

Aims

The main aim of this project is to develop a discipline specific e-portfolio *framework* for the physical sciences, which will also be widely applicable across the other sciences and engineering. This framework is a discipline specific template that provides the appropriate recording mechanism for a student to chart their development from their own discipline perspective, structure what the students record, how they evidence their progress and how they reflect on their development in a subject specific manner to which they can relate.

In order to develop this framework we will undertake a review of current practice with the use of e-portfolios, what systems are available and how (or if) they are being used in a discipline specific context.

As part of this work we will collaborate with other cognate Subject Centres to collate information about existing e-portfolio (software) systems and to undertake a review of discipline based e-portfolio content/services/practices etc. However, this does not preclude collaborations with other Centres engaging with e-portfolios where feasible. We will also collaborate with the Centre for Recording Achievement (CRA) as external consultants for this work and will aim to undertake coordinated activities such as national events, in conjunction with the other SC, where appropriate.

Outcomes

The planned outcomes for this project will be a comprehensive review of e-portfolio use in the disciplines, together with a science based e-portfolio framework which can be implemented or customised to suit the needs of the individual. In addition to the physical sciences community, there is a potential for this work to benefit the wider science community as many of the aspects of PDP will be common to all sciences. Another important output of this work will be to collaborate with the professional bodies for our disciplines; the Royal Society of Chemistry and the Institute of Physics, to develop a postgraduate extension to the framework which will be appropriate for CPD and professional accreditation. Thus the framework will be useful to users from university entry through to eventual accreditation as chartered scientist.