

# E-Portfolios

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# My Background

- Centre Manager for UK Physical Sciences Centre
- Senior Advisor for Employability (1 day secondment)
- Previous projects:
  - ▶ Development of employability resources
  - ▶ E-portfolio framework project
  - ▶ E-PIP project (embedding e-portfolios in practice)
  - ▶ Scoping study on use of e-portfolios
- Strong interest in technology supported learning



# Overview

- What is an e-portfolio
- Features of an e-portfolio
- Supporting Personal Development Planning (PDP)
- Challenges
- Benefits
- Examples

# Definition(s) of an e-portfolio

- ‘purposeful aggregation of digital items’

Strivens, J., D. Baume, et al. (2009). "The Role of e-Portfolios in Formative and Summative Assessment: Report of the JISC-funded Study."

- ‘An e-portfolio is the product, created by the learner, a collection of digital artefacts articulating experiences, achievements and learning’

Effective practice with e-portfolios supporting 21st century learning (2008) Lisa Gray, JISC publication

- ‘An archive of material, relating to an individual, held in digital format’

Madden, T. (2007). "Supporting Student e-Portfolios", Higher Education Academy UK Physical Sciences Centre.

# Features of an e-portfolio

- Record reflections
- Upload documents
- Link to external content
- Link to curriculum/ modules
- Linked/ embedded in VLE
- Personal area
- Ease of use
- Communication/ reminder facility
- Incentive to use
- Ownership/ lifelong learning
- Web facilities
- Security
- Templates/ customisation

# Why use an e-portfolio?

- To support PDP
- What is PDP?
- How is PDP used in your department?
- Integrating PDP/e-portfolios into your teaching
- On the horizon: HEAR 2011/12

# Personal Development Planning

- “Personal Development Planning is a structured and supported process undertaken by an individual to reflect upon their own learning, performance and / or achievement and to plan for their personal, educational and career development.”

(QAA Progress files for HE, 2000)

- “Personal Development Planning (PDP) is a means by which existing good practice such as the Personal Tutorial Scheme can be enhanced to promote academic planning and reflection to students.”

## How is PDP used in your department?

- Is it seamlessly integrated into the tutorial system?
- How many staff actively support it?
- How many students actively engage with it?
- How does your department/University promote PDP?
- On the horizon: HEAR 2011/12?

## PDP at Hull

- Each department implements their own system
- Most have paper/electronic docs/some incentivise
- Most students print documents out
- Take up is poor – better with incentives
- Implemented a PDP badge/logo for curriculum
- Students who engaged appreciated benefits

# Student awareness of PDP

**Have you been introduced to PDP by your department/course programme staff?**

Yes	74.8%
No	18.1%
Not sure	7.1%

**Are you encouraged to engage with PDP within your department/course programme?**


Yes	73.4%
No	15.6%
Not sure	10.9%

# Student engagement with PDP

**Do you engage in your department's PDP process?**

Yes	54%
No	25%
Not sure	21%

## How can an e-portfolio support PDP?

- What processes are used for PDP (paper, oral etc)?
  - How is PDP administered (via tutor, department)?
  - Is Lusid commonly used by all staff/students?
  - Is it integrated or referenced in the curriculum?
- 

# Challenges of using an e-portfolio

- Technological (not a problem with Lusic?)
- Staff awareness/support
- Fitting it into the curriculum/tutorial system
- Student awareness
- Student engagement
- Transferability, Lifelong learning

# Benefits of using an e-portfolio

- Staff benefits
  - ▶ Highlight the importance of the curriculum
  - ▶ Help students become more reflective, therefore better learners
  - ▶ Saves time!
- Student benefits
  - ▶ Helps them become more reflective (independent learners?)
  - ▶ Increases enjoyment of course
  - ▶ Helps evidence their skills/knowledge for employers

## E-portfolio use at Hull

- Not used by most departments
- (portfolio) required by some departments
- Pilots have used PebblePad (commercial tool)
- Range of resources available to support implementation
- Review of e-portfolios now under way

# E-portfolios at Cumbria

- Encouraged through JISC Flourish project
- Used PebblePad for:
  - ▶ Annual appraisal
  - ▶ University Teaching Awards
  - ▶ PGCert course
  - ▶ Professional accreditation
- And of course, staff/student support....

# Student engagement

- Employability statement (careers prospects)
- Careers modules
- [Employability resources](#) (link to video)
- Increasing integration in the curriculum

# Student awareness of e-portfolios

- Most (87.5%) had not previously used an e-portfolio
- About half (of all respondents) said they would be willing to use an e-portfolio, with about a third being unsure
- About half said the University should provide the e-portfolio after graduation
- Approximately half would use an e-portfolio after graduation, with the other half being unsure

## Current developments at Hull

- Aim to promote employability in curriculum
- E-portfolio seen as key component of this
- Pilots planned with ~5 departments
- Aim to introduce institutional e-portfolio(s) next year
- Keen to share experiences with others

## Making e-portfolios work for you

- Re-evaluate how PDP is supported by department
- Use e-portfolio (Lusid?) to support the process
- Emphasise the benefits to students

## Possible approaches

- Integrate with tutorial system?
- Assessment?
- Peer support/review?
- Employer engagement?
- Placement opportunities?

# Possible use of e-portfolio

