Educational Software – Digital Portfolio

Digital Portfolio is a software where students can upload, manage and showcase all evidence of their study efforts.

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Level of education: Bachelor
Branch: EdTech

Humanity
How does the EdTech affect humanity?

How will this new technology affect Meaningful Contact in your institution?
It eases the work of teachers, clarifies and unifies the restrictions for the students in the context of evidence submission. This may cause a reduction in the overall contact hours of student and teacher as feedback can now be given digitally. However, if Digital Portfolio is applied systemically the contact hours could actually be improved in quality. The teacher-student meetings may be more focused on the evidence and the proof submitted and reviewed prior to the meeting.

How will this new technology affect Social Cohesion in your institution?
Student may share their portfolio not only with teachers but with external stakeholders and most importantly - each other. This should lead to open discussions and comparison of individual implementation. However, to facilitate the process, it is vital to set clear expectations and explain to the students how to use the Digital Portfolio correctly. Each educational institution has a slightly different way of applying Digital Portfolio in their curriculum. But it should be clearly communicated with the students and there is also room to encourage group work and collaboration using the Portfolio.

How will this new technology affect Well-Being in your institution?
The Digital Portfolio has tools that facilitate self reflection and is integrated with other learning tools and applications. If teachers set the premise to practice self-reflection, students have the right means.
Moreover, the competition among students is made more fair, making the students use the same platform to deliver their work. In addition, evaluating the portfolio is also easier for the teachers compared to other alternatives. When sharing the portfolio (showcasing), a digital copy is created and it can no longer be edited, the student and the teacher have clear identification of what they are viewing/sharing.

Now that you have thought hard about the impact of this educational technology (by filling out the questions above), what improvements would you like to make to the technology? List them below.
I would encourage to set up workshops for students at the beginning of each semester where the teachers explain how to use the tool as per course's expectations. In addition, it may be beneficial to have a check-in session one or twice a course where students showcase their work to teachers and each other. This way, more social cohesion and human contact would be encouraged.

Technology Impact Cycle Tool
Educational Software - Digital Portfolio

Autonomy
How does the EdTech affect autonomy?

How does the EdTech impact self-determination of students and pupils?
The Digital Portfolio provides a unified platform for submitting and showcasing their work. This together with the templates, provided by the teachers, is limiting students freedom and decision making, as it makes them all dependent on the software. It is required that all students and teachers use it to make the most of it. However, it also ensures that students' work is more equal and can even encourage communication and collaboration via sharing options.
Students are still able to get creative within the bounds of the teachers' expectations and application limits. In addition, they are the sole owners and have full control over their evidence. Meaning that they decide what to upload, when, who has access and to which parts.

How does the EdTech impact self-determination of teachers?
There is a certain format that needs to be followed, however it was developed for and with the educators. Teachers can customize the format to a degree providing clear bounds to the students (via templates, explanations, feedback). If all students of a teacher are using the application then it makes it much easier and faster for a teacher to review, provide feedback and evaluate them fairly.
Overall, the software is intended and developed to make the teachers and students life a little easier, give everyone a fair chance, unify and clarify expectations and requirements, allowing students to focus more on the quality of their work than the presentation of it. This still outweighs the limitations.

How does the EdTech impact the educational independence and freedom of the institution?
The way students can deliver their work is now unified, everyone has the same resources and same access. Teachers have one platform to review and evaluate. This may reduce the frequency but can improve the quality of the student-teacher contact hours, by providing a more focused discussion. Educational institutions that use a digital portfolio stand out as more modern and advanced. Teaching students to showcase their work is lifetime skill, that will be beneficial to their careers later on in life as well.

Now that you have thought hard about the impact of this educational technology (by filling out the questions above), what improvements would you like to make to the technology? List them below.

In order to set the right and equal bounds, teachers should come together and agree on one format or template fitting the subject and the expectations. This must then be very well communicated and clearly explained to the students. It would also be useful to set up check meetings or review sessions live with the students to offer a quality communication between the two parties.

Justice
How does the EdTech affect justice?

How does this new edtech tool impact Equal Treatment in your institution?
Portflow creates one single platform for all students to showcase their work, as well as one format for the teachers to review and evaluate. It has always been a goal of Portflow to improve the work of educators as well as students. Since all students are bound to the same platform, potentially same template, it should become easier to review and provide more equal evaluation.

How does this tool impact the equal opportunity in the institution?
The tool has little impact on equal opportunity, as all the students need is a computer to use it, which is already required by most study fields. In addition, the Portflow developers are working hard on implementing proper accessibility for those with special needs. The only exception would be advanced students that would prefer to build their own portfolios instead of using a standard. However, in certain cases, if the teachers allow it, they may use a hybrid of several options, or get an exception.

How does this new tool impact inclusivity in your institution?
Each educational institution decides among themselves how and where will they apply the digital portfolio. As a company we can only educate and show examples.
The tool itself is build in compliance to LTI, thus, it can be integrated within a large Learning Management System (LMS) as is the case for most clients that integrate Portfolio with Canvas or Brightspace. All the students have access to the main LMS, therefore, may have access to Portfolio LTI. Whether to use the tool for a course, a class or a study is entirely in control of the institution.

Now that you have thought hard about the impact of this educational technology, what improvements would you like to make? List them below.
Proper application of portfolio should improve the fairness and equality of the students. However, it remains up to the teachers to equally challenge and stimulate the more advanced students.

Technology Impact Cycle Tool

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Impact

How will the EdTech make things better?

What is the challenge at hand? What problem (what 'pain') does this educational technology want to solve?

There is a lack of unified platform for student work delivery, that is accessible to all students and accepted by all teachers.

Can you indicate why you are sure that this educational technology is solving the right problem?

The solution was developed in collaboration with educators to help improve their work. It can be integrated with a larger system, that reduces its complexity for the users and makes it accessible to all the students of an institution.

How is this educational technology going to solve the problem?

It provides an accessible platform for students to submit and showcase their work, in return, it enables teachers to create templates for their courses to communicate the requirements and expectations better.

What negative effects do you expect from this educational technology?

When the requirements and expectations are provided and it is up for students to meet them, the students with different needs and skills who require special attention and care might get overlooked. However, it is still up to the teachers and not the developers to cater to that.

Now that you have thought hard about the impact of this educational technology, what improvements would you like to make? List them below.

Perhaps, add a feature where student can ask for extra attention or help in private from the teacher.