

In the previous module I've been analyzing the portfolio of Hollyce Balentine; she agreed to answer on the interview questions about her portfolio and how it affected her career. Moreover, I briefly interviewed Mary Davidson (she is a creator of a portfolio about herself as well) in order to enlarge the amount of data collected and to increase accuracy. I was interested in effects of the effects of a portfolio on the career of a person and in the process of creation of a portfolio, so my interviews are focused on these two aspects.

To start with I suggested Hollyce to get back to the origins of her portfolio and to the process of its creation, how exactly did she manage to put her personal identity in the portfolio while staying professional, which is hard sometimes. She replied that her "personal identity comes through in the design" and explained it further: "The bright colors of the front page and the font I chose for my name show my more feminine and playful side. Also, I felt the dominant bright blue color was a nice touch that was not dry and boring, but could still pass as professional." I cannot disagree with Hollyce about her design but it shall represent her interests as well. That is how she responded to that: "I have quite a variety of interests, so I had to think about the types of skills and activities that I most enjoy doing that relate to PW. That was how I ended up choosing the navigation categories you see at the top."

Although design of a portfolio is important, the main purpose of creation of a portfolio is to show which skills does the author possesses, so the pieces of portfolio shall represent different skill sets that shall be picked by the creator of a portfolio. Hollyce says that she put many things that she created at work in her portfolio, and "it is a matter of choosing which category those pieces best fit in." She insists that

everything that a person worked on is a potential portfolio item. “Think about your interests and the type of job you think you want to have. Then, polish up pieces that showcase skills needed for that position” (Balentine). Mary Davidson has got a slightly different view on the choice of the items for a portfolio: “I think you should choose pieces that not only are great examples of your work, but are pieces that you actually enjoyed working on” (Davidson). The most laborious part of creation of her portfolio for Hollyce was coding, she explain it: “I used WordPress as a CMS for mine, and setting it up the way I wanted took a lot of work (and knowledge from WRA 410). It was definitely worth it, though” (Balentine).

The second aspect that I wanted to find out about creation of a portfolio is its effects on the author’s career. I interviewed two people, Hollyce Balentine and Mary Davidson, and both of them think that portfolio is something that might help a person in his or her search for a job or even in future career. “My professional portfolio definitely does help my career today. Whenever I need to reference a skillset that I have or a particular piece of work that I am looking for I can always reference my portfolio” (Davidson). Mary used her portfolio in every interview that she had, “I think it definitely helped a lot because it let employers see actual pieces of work that I have done” (Davidson). Both of the writers continue the work on their portfolios and agree that it is an important item that every writer shall consider to have. “I still upload projects and deliverable that I create at work to it so I can show them off in the future. I include the link when I apply for jobs” (Balentine).

To sum up I would like to mention that portfolio is something that allows its creator to show his or her achievements and skills; it might be helpful for interviews for jobs and is a useful item in a career of a professional writer.