

Unit 1: Review the article by Di Silvestro & Nadir (2021). Discuss one aspect of this article which you find unexpected.

Di Silvestro and Nadir consider the research question, 'Can developing ePortfolios foster reflective and deeper learning in an online graduate adult education program?'

It is surprising that the ePortfolio has an impact on deeper learning as, at first glance, the ePortfolio is simply a means of gathering evidence and collating a student's work over-time.

However, the article reveals that it may not be the medium of the ePortfolio itself that fosters deeper learning, but the methodology used by instructors to require students to synthesize their work in a reflective way. The study also highlights that in the best cases, the ePortfolio was integrated into the study. This would suggest that when the ePortfolio is used without varied and supporting activities and scaffolding, deeper learning would not occur.

In summary, the ePortfolio **can** foster deeper learning and when used well in conjunction with a coherent programme of study add value to the course. It is, of course the process rather than the medium itself which is important. The ePortfolio is unlikely to succeed without high-quality teaching which may be why Di Silvestro and Nadir claim the ePortfolio **can** foster deeper learning rather than the ePortfolio **will** foster deeper learning. The ePortfolio is a cognitive tool which, like all tools, can yield the correct result when applied skilfully in a suitable context.