

Title of Session: e-Portfolios

Moderator: Joseph Ugoretz

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Date: July 19, 2006

Room: e-Portfolio Group

DianneA: There are some interesting LINKS that indicate to me that the focus of the discussion here might well be on helping students develop e-portfolios, as part of student literacy, etc

DianneA nods to BJ

BJB2: if you're new to Tapped In, click on the ACTIONS menu in the top right of the chat window and then clicik on DETACH

BJB2: let's start with introductions. Please tell us where you are located and what you teach

BJB2 . o O (and what interests you in e-portfolios)

AngieSP: I teach middle school Art& yearbook in Southern Cal.

KathleenAF: thanks. I am checking out what/how e-portfolios are and how they are done. I am in Los Angeles and teach 6, 7, and 8th graders who are emotionally disturbed

DianneA: I teach pre-service teachers K-6 at Wollongong, Australia, and my interest in e-portfolios is as a professional development tool

HeatherAB: I'm middle school Tech, and I'd like my students to start keeping e-portfolios that they can take with them

JosephU joined the room.

JosephU: Hello!

DianneA: Hello!

BJB2 sighs with relief!

BJB2: we're doing intros, Joe

MidgeF: I was a co-keynote this morning. I am required to create an eportfolio in my Master's program (next month)

SherryC1: I am a middle school computer teacher in Rapid City, SD. I am working on my own e portfolio for my Master's degree

KatyD: I teach English as ESo in Jujuy Argentina

DianneA . o O (so post grad in US is doing something about e-portfolios, good!)

SusanR: I am a K to 8 Occasional Teacher and am keenly interested in eportfolios as an option for personal growth

SusanR: from Ottawa Canada

MidgeF: It's my final in a course called Emerging Technologies

JosephU: Having some computer problems--I'm an English Professor and Director of Teaching and Learning with Technology at Community College in NYC. We're about to implement eportfolios with our Teacher Education students

DianneA: I teach pre-service teachers K-6 at Wollongong, Australia, and my interest in e-portfolios is as a professional development tool

LaraHe: I am a PhD student in the area of teacher ed (previously middle school teacher for 13 years). I'm interested in the use of e-Portfolios for professional development of practicing teachers

DianneA . o O (for Joe's benefit and may explain the other comment)

JosephU nods in thanks

BJB2: Dianne will be leading a discussion on the topic at the end of the festival

DianneA nods to BJ yes that's my 'conflict of interest'

DianneA wonders if focusing now on e-portfolios for teachers would be good enough for those who have come to find out about it for classroom use?

LiamA: Is there any one who is doing e Portfolio processes on a State or Province wide process?

DianneA: Liam can you explain a bit more?

JeffC: Liam, Joseph is an eportfolio expert and doing the session today.

KatyD: no I would like to use it with my students

DianneA: thanks Katy, I think that was probably where Joe was expecting to take us today

DianneA: So Joe, what's the state of the art for e-portfolios for classroom use?

KatyD: great then

DianneA: If you click on the LINKS link in the room view

DianneA: you will see a number of links to web sites that talk about portfolios for students

BJB2 wonders if Joe's connection is ok?

DianneA . o O (I am assuming Joe is having computer problems)

BJB2 nods

AngieSP: Wow their are a lot of sites here

DianneA: I am looking at the first link

DianneA: and at the Creating Digital Portfolios with elementary students

JosephU: argg--can't get through...let me switch machines. Be right back

DianneA: Liam you were asking about state-wide process

DianneA: were you talking about e-portfolios for students or teachers?

JosephU left the room.

JosephU joined the room.

JosephU: Ah, that's better!

DianneA: thanks Joe

JosephU: Sorry!

AngieSP: In Tapped In is there a way to look at the links pages and still see the conversation at the bottom of the page

DianneA: yes Angie

DianneA: if you have detached you chat space

KatyD: I'm in the first link but I don't see the elementary

AngieSP: ok I will try that

LiamA: Yes I'm in B C Canada and moving ahead - we are moving ahead and we have a significant level of teacher support -making progress as people start to understand this dimension

DianneA: you can resize it I have done mine vertically

DianneA: then I have resized my main window vertically so I can see both windows at once

DianneA: Sorry, I have taken some of that for granted

JosephU: Is there a link we're all looking at? (Sorry I missed out on some of the discussion!)

DianneA: yes Joe, I have referred them to the first of Bridget's links

DianneA: for creating portfolios for elementary students

DianneA: Joe I wasn't sure whether you had a discussion focus intended

DianneA: and I wasn't sure if you were going to highlight the links

BJB2 . o O (we were tap dancing, Joe)

DianneA: please feel free to call us to order and do what you were going to do

MidgeF: I live with tap shoes on...

JosephU: Tap dancing works for me--I think those examples are a good place to begin

BJB2 laughs. Always good to have plan B

DianneA: so might I hand the lead of the discussion back to you

DianneA: we were helping Katy think about how to develop portfolios for her elementary students

JosephU: Katy, what are *your* goals for the portfolios?

JosephU: (unless I missed that!)

DianneA . o O (why didn't I think of THAT question?)

JosephU smiles

KatyD: I would like them to be able to prepare one

DianneA grins too captured by TI features

KatyD: my students are not elementary they are from high school

JosephU: OK--what's the instructional goal? --or let me be more clear...

JosephU: Do you want them to do portfolios for reflections? (to think about their own learning?)

JeannettLJ: I just looked at the Johns Hopkins Electronic Portfolio. Have any of you used this format with high school students?

JosephU: or for assessment?

RachelT: What do you want the children to get out of doing portfolios?

JosephU: or both?

JosephU: or other?

DianneA: is 'medium for learning' one of the others, Joe?

KatyD: yes to think and reinforce their learning

JosephU: So...to think and reinforce learning?

JosephU: So to collect is the first step?

KatyD: yes ok

HalaH: Collect whose work? The teacher or the student?

JosephU: Katy is talking about port's for students

DianneA: we are focusing here on the student Hala

HalaH: ok

JosephU: Katy--one way that I think port's can work for learning is to have students think about taxonomy--what are the different types of assignments

AngieSP: I use portfolios with my middle school students as a way of keeping their best work through the year and then students select pieces of art work they would like to rework or develop further. I would like some ideas on how to move this into technology

KathleenAF: I would like to have portfolios to collect work, show growth over time, and for the students to be able to share their work at IEP meetings in a way that they will feel is impressive.

AngieSP: I like Kathleen AF's idea but how do you do this with technology

JosephU: Kathleen and Angie--the technology is best to have a way to make things easier--(and more impressive)--and that grows out of your already-established goals

JosephU: So the technology makes it easier to send around, or have different presentations.

HalaH: like sharing their blogs, wikis, stories..etc?

KatyD: that would be great

JosephU: Yes--or whatever kind of assignment they want to display.

JosephU: Courseforum (<http://www.courseforum.com>) is a very inexpensive system I've used in the past.

JosephU: But it does have a bit of a learning curve

KatyD: what do you mean with that?

HalaH: Is it a free web host?

LaraHe: What resources are out there for use that avoids the need to reinvent the wheel when having students maintain portfolios?

LaraHe: What are the pros and cons of the different hosts, software,...

JosephU: Hala, courseforum is only free if you host it yourself. If you want them to host it, it does cost money--but not much--I paid \$40 for one semester

JosephU: Lara, Helen Barrett's site (in the links section) has a fairly good overall rundown

AngieSP: For \$40 per semester can I use this service for all five of my classes

JosephU: Reinventing the wheel is best avoided if you use a templated system (either tech expertise or a commercial service required).

JosephU: Angie--I think the price varies according to number of users, but they're very friendly and willing to work with you.

AngieSP: great

JosephU: Here's an example of a class set of portfolios using courseforum
<http://www.mountebank.org/courseforum/8.html> (you can click on "student pages")

LiamA: I agree the HELEN BARRET info is a great resource - also in this conversation people are already indicating they are at various levels of familiarity - some brand new and some with experience - this makes it tough to focus

JeannettLJ: My question got lost in the shuffle earlier. Has anyone tried the John Hopkins Electronic Portfolio with high school students?

LaraHe: Jeannette--I was looking at this sight, also. It looks interesting, but I've never used it

JosephU: Jeanette--we're about to implement the JHU eport, but for college students.

JosephU: It's a very well-designed system, and nice people, but it's quite expensive

JeannettLJ: Expensive doesn't work in a private school.

JosephU: There's a very basic and consistent principle in these things...if it's inexpensive (or free), it takes a lot of work and tech knowledge. If it's really easy and user-friendly, it'll cost you.

JosephU: TANSTAAFL

JosephU: (There Ain't No Such Thing as a Free Lunch)

JeannettLJ: Thanks for the heads up, Joseph.

HalaH smiles

KatyD smiles

LiamA: We have some private / faith based schools that use MOODLE very successfully- any one else doing this

JosephU: Moodle is great--and free--but takes some tech expertise--especially on the installation and configuration.

HalaH: true

JosephU: If you have even one guy or gal on IT staff who is willing to help out, then it can be a perfect solution.

LaraHe: We use Moodle for college courses, and I love it. Haven't tried using it with students yet, but local school districts are taking an interest lately

LaraHe: How about the Open Source Portfolio Initiative? Any experience with this?

JosephU: what I love about moodle is the huge international user community (this is common in open source projects)

HalaH: No

JosephU: My impression of OSPI is that it's still not quite ready for prime-time...unless you have dedicated programmers (not just IT folks, but real programmers) on staff

KatyD: how do you get it?

HalaH: Lara,what is that exactly?

LaraHe: It's on the links page

HalaH: Ah, I see it now

LiamA: There are few dimensions that I am interested in - 1 Collection and reflection and 2 how to reduce the nightmare of tracking student progress / data management - any 'britelites' on this one???

JosephU: a place like Stanford or University of Michigan can have no trouble with OSPI--but for us "normal" folks it's not so cool

JeffC: Doesn't OSPI have an online version that individuals may post to?

JeffC: Or did they eliminate that feature?

JosephU: Yes, Jeff--they had it last time I looked, but it was not very user-friendly or accessible.

JosephU: Liam, to me, collection and reflection are the key.

JosephU: the tracking student progress really should follow that--as they reflect on their own progress, they construct a "tree" of their work and improvement and learning

HalaH: Aha, so when a tutor asks you to reflect on a week ,or any other participant's work, this is actually a portfolio?

JosephU: Hala, if it includes the actual "artifacts" (the student work, some product) with commentary and reflection on that, and the two are presented together, so they illuminate one another, that's a portfolio!

JosephU: Although the definition can certainly be flexible

JosephU shrugs

HalaH: Yes, this is what happens now on my TESOL course I am taking now!!

JosephU: If it's on paper, it's a portfolio...if it's digital, it's an e-portfolio!

HalaH: Practicing without knowing this is portfolio!! Great!

HalaH: It is then E-portfolio

LiamA: I am heading out soon but -without wanting to be pushy - I have dropped this web link <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/portfolio/> this is where we're at In BC and all schools are committed for grades 11 -12 - is any one else at this point -? ie state wide adoption

JosephU: Now you can take over leading the group!

JosephU smiles

HalaH: Yes

HalaH: Proudly

HalaH smiles

SusanR: Would you recommend using a blog like WordPress as an ePortfolio, Joseph?

JosephU: We're not there yet here in NY, Liam--but this kind of adoption is becoming more common!

JosephU: Susan, I think Wordpress is the absolute best blogging software. I use it myself. And it can be used for eportfolios, but I think it requires a bit of gymnastics to make it work for that purpose.

LaraHe: Portfolio demonstration of learning just makes so much more sense than the high stakes/standardized exams only! Bravo for BC!

JosephU: Yes. Bravo for BC (and I do love Vancouver!)

SusanR: your comments are most welcome, Joseph

BJB2: however, Joe leads a monthly discussion on e-Portfolios

LaraHe: I know things'll be wrapping up here. I'm interested in e-portfolios used for teacher prof development, particularly novice teachers. Anyone interested in continuing this discussion elsewhere or at another time?

BJB2: please join us in August!

HalaH: Can I log on to this room later ?

LaraHe: Thanks Joseph, and sorry about tech difficulties

DianneA: Lara I will be discussing that sort of thing as the last event today

HeatherAB: Thank you, Joseph

BJB2: yes, Hala. You can also join the group

JosephU: Thank you. do join in in August

JosephU: We're on the calendar

JeannettLJ: Thank you, Joseph.

DianneA: we can also discuss it with the Teaching Teachers group on the calendar

HalaH: I will .Thanks very much

AngieSP: Joseph, thank you for the helpful sites and comments

BJB2 nods to Dianne

LaraHe: OK. I'll be there (Aug and tonight) as long as my son's in bed. Neglected him enough already.

JosephU: And anyone should feel free to email me anytime

JosephU: jugoretz@bmcc.cuny.edu

BJB2: thanks, Joe!

HalaH: Thanks again

SusanR: Thanks Joseph

JosephU: good night, Katy and Susan

JosephU: and everyone

DianneA: good night all, thanks for sharing so well