

The Educational Content of e-Portfolios

Lorraine Stefani, Robin Mason and Chris Pegler

Contents

List of illustrations viii

Acknowledgements ix

List of abbreviations x

Introduction 1

1 E-portfolios and e-learning 7

E-portfolios defined 8

Relating to e-learning 10

Institutional engagement 12

E-portfolios as e-learning 13

Standards 14

Software 14

Policy drivers 15

Convergence 16

2 The e-portfolio as a tool for learning 17

Setting the stage for e-portfolio development 19

Linking e-portfolios and reflective lifelong learning 20

Paper-based e-portfolio into the curriculum 22

Embedding the e-portfolio into the curriculum 25

*Case example: Linking the e-portfolio and PDP into a
Masters in Pharmacy degree* 26

Case example: Alverno – the e-portfolio at an institutional level 29

What about the technical skills? 32

Recognising the issues 33

3 Getting started with e-portfolios 35

Considering the pros and cons 36

Implementation issues 39

Clarifying the purpose of the e-portfolio 41

Determining the scope of the implementation 43

Relating the e-portfolio implementation to the curriculum 45

Potential contents for an e-portfolio 50

Preparing users to use the e-portfolio 51

The e-learning ‘maturity’ of the organisation 53

Summary and online resources 54

4 Course design using e-portfolios 57

How to engage students with their e-portfolio 58

Course design parameters 59

Beyond a repository of information 67

Changing curriculum design 68

Summary and online resources 69

Online case studies 70

5 E-portfolios and assessment of student learning 71

- Linking assessment and e-portfolio purpose 71*
- Changing views on assessment 74*
- E-portfolios, formative assessment and student learning 76*
- The problem of making assessment reliable 80*
- Self and peer assessment 83*
- Case example: Learning objects and e-portfolios, a question of choice 84*
- The difference an e-portfolio makes 85*

6 The e-portfolio as a tool for professional development 87

- The link between learning and teaching portfolios 88*
- What goes into a teaching portfolio 91*
- The e-teaching portfolio 95*
- Creating and maintaining the e-teaching portfolio 96*
- Professional development input on the e-teaching portfolios 97*
- Producing a point-in-time teaching portfolio 99*
- The benefit of an e-teaching portfolio 100*
- Online resources 100*

7 E-portfolios and inclusive learning 102

- How inclusive is the internet? 103*
- Social inclusion, learning and technology 104*
- Understanding disability in relation to technology 107*
- E-learning design for accessibility 108*
- Difference in disability 109*
- Useful resources for e-learning and accessibility 115*

8 Software solutions for a complex concept 117

- Types of e-portfolio software 118*
- Commercial systems 121*
- Proprietary (university-designed) software 121*
- Open source e-portfolios 124*
- Open source common tools 126*
- Choosing appropriate software 126*
- Standards and specifications 127*
- Case example: Using SPIDER at Strathclyde 129*
- Options reviewed 129*
- Online resources 134*

9 Relating other new technologies to the e-portfolio 135

- Introduction 135*
- Blogs and self-publishing 136*
- Wikis as works in progress 143*
- Combining technologies – the birth of the podcast 149*
- The role of new technologies in e-portfolios 153*

10 E-portfolio futures 155

- Purpose 155*
- Scenarios 156*
- Conclusion 164*

Online Resources 165

Glossary 166

References 175

Index 184