Title of Session: e-Portfolios
Moderator: Joseph Ugoretz
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Room: e-Portfolio Group

SeanMa: Has anyone tried the Open Source Portfolio Initiative?

BJB2: Kathy, I take it you're not here for e-Portfolios?

DavidWe: Not me, Sean

BJB2: Hold up a sec, please, Sean

BJB2: Let's be 'official'

SeanMa: Can do.

KathySa: I am...just had other stuff open...sorry

BJB2: Welcome to the e-Portfolios discussion.

BJB2: To make your chat larger and easier to read, click on ACTIONS in the top right of your chat window and then click on DETACH

BJB2: we usually start all discussions with introductions

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania.

SeanMa: My name is Sean Martinson I work with teachers to integrate technology in Northern Minnesota (Grand Rapids).

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I help teachers learn more about technology. I'm one of the HelpDesk volunteers for Tapped In. I'm in New Jersey, near NYC

RonB: Yea! I made it to the signed destination. Now, all I need to do is learn how to communicate.

KathySa: I'm Kathy Sauer and I teach accounting for a private college system

JenniferSc joined the room.

DavidWe: Hi, Jennifer. Welcome

JenniferSc: Hi everyone, sorry I am late. I'm from University of NM.

BJB2: the leader of this discussion posted to the group that he may be a bit late arriving...so no problem, Jenn!

SeanMa: I have my 21 month old climbing on me so I'll try to keep up.

BJB2: Sean, would you like to ask your question again?

BJB2 laughs...what fun!

DavidWe: Good luck, Sean

RonB: I am a retired administrator. Can't you tell?

KathySa: Sean and I are classmates in a graduate course.

SeanMa: Here goes: Has anyone tried the Open Source Portfolio Initiative listed in the links?

JenniferSc: I've looked but not tried.

BJB2: I don't recall doing that, Sean...have you?

SeanMa: No, haven't even heard of it, thought I'd see if anyone has looked into it.

BJB2 . o O (Joe has to change the url...it's moved)

BJB2: what is everyone's interest in ePortfolios?

BJB2 . o O (for teachers? Students?)

JenniferSc: I'm looking for undergrads/grads in our college of education.

SeanMa: I have heard of efolios but done no work with them... I'd love to get a good run down on what they are and maybe examples of classroom use.

KathySa: For teachers...we use ANGEL as a CMS and need to move towards an efolio

RonB: Sean, What are efolios?

BJB2: good question, Ron...

DavidWe: Not paper

FernandaR joined the room.

DavidWe: Examples of student work in digital form

DavidWe waves to Fernanda

BJB2: I think each person has their own definition, although they are all electronic or digital

FernandaR: Hi everybody

RonB: Sean: Electronic mail?

BJB2: are you here for ePortfolios, Fernanda?

FernandaR: yes, BJ

SeanMa: I'm wondering what they are too.... Efolios, are we talking digital pictures and scanned images?

SeanMa: of student work

FernandaR: sorry I'm late

DavidWe: text files instead of work written with pen/pencil on paper

BJB2: ahhhh...or are we talking documentation of grades, IEPs, etc?

SeanMa: I was thinking and looking for ways to show and demonstrate student growth through electronic means.

DavidWe: I tend to think of Digital Portfolios as referring to student work - making it easier to collect, view, transport

JenniferSc: I like to think of efolios as something akin to an artist's portfolio but in an electronic format.

DavidWe agrees with Jennifer

BJB2: and...are these portfolios transportable? transferable?

KathySa: I am looking at work completed that can be placed in the portfolio

SeanMa: Did someone say the "instructor" was going to be late?

BJB2: yes, Sean

SeanMa: Any idea of how late?

BJB2: but he said to start without him

BJB2: he said half an hour

BJB2: so he should be here in about 15 minutes

JenniferSc: A reflective piece is also helpful in a portfolio

SeanMa: Is there anyone currently using something with their students?

KathySa: We utilize something called a Graduate Assessment Portfolio that is currently done on paper.

BJB2: I like the reflective piece in a portfolio too, Jennifer

DavidWe: Portfolio assessment, whether on paper or in electronic form (or some combination of the two) is also a concept

DavidWe: Allows to see student development over time

KathySa: The portfolio includes a piece on critical thinking, communication, and information literacy. These are assessments for both the students and the program.

JenniferSc: When I did the paper version years ago in middle school that was the best component, in my opinion.

BJB2: so you can see, Sean that each person has a different idea about portfolios

SeanMa: I get the portfolio idea but am wondering if I can find some good examples of what classrooms are using. I'm going to bop back and forth and look at the Open Source Initiative...

DavidWe: A friend of mine who does a lot of consulting on education and technology, David Niguadula, has a web page with his idea about Digital Portfolios

JenniferSc: Sean, I don't believe the open source initiative shows any k-12 examples...from my recollection.

DavidWe: Anyone want to see it?

KathySa: sure

DavidWe: http://www.ideasconsulting.com/dp_main.htm

KathySa: Nice website. I'm going to bookmark it and check it out more thoroughly later.

RonB: Thanks everyone. You have made my day.

BJB2: David, why don't you add that url to the links?

JosephU joined the room.

BJB2 cheers...hi, Joseph!

JosephU: Hi--Sorry to be late tonight

BJB2: our fearless leader has arrived!

JosephU: heheh. leader! heh!

JosephU: how is everyone? Happy New Year!

SeanMa: Doing Good thank you.

KathySa: Happy New Year!!! Doing well...thank you.

FernandaR: Happy New Year!

BJB2: Happy New Year, Joe. Sean has a question about the link in the group room on Open Source Portfolio Initiative

JosephU: OK--What's the Q, Sean?

JosephU: For one thing, I see that I need to change the URL--it's now http://www.osportfolio.org (although it redirects automatically)

SeanMa: I've got the Open Source Ini. open and was wondering if anyone has used it? http://www.osportfolio.org/

JosephU: I've tried the demo, and I'm pretty familiar with the system--have talked to people at campuses where they're implementing.

JosephU: But we're not going to use it (at this point) at my own campus

SeanMa: Could you give me a nut shell of what it is and how it works?

SeanMa: It looked very similar to Moodle but I didn't get to use it yet.

JosephU: OSPI is part of Sakai--which is an open source Learning Management System.

JosephU: It is similar to Moodle, you're right.

JosephU: But it's more ambitious, I think, in its ultimate goals.

SeanMa: Is it worth looking into?

JosephU: Eventually, Sakai strives to be an overall package--a big picture solution--with all kinds of interchangeable, interoperable plugins.

JosephU: Is it worth looking into....

JosephU: hm...

JosephU: really depends on your needs and goals, and capabilities

SeanMa: I've got a thought and a previous experience in mind that has me looking into something like this.

BridgetM joined the room.

JosephU: I think the general consensus (and this is my own opinion, too) is that if you're not able to invest a large amount of programming and support resources, then it's not quite ready for prime-time

JosephU: You definitely, absolutely, need some smart programmers on staff--at least one full-time, I'd say. And you need to be willing to become part of the development community, and make an institutional commitment on a pretty big scale.

SeanMa: I worked in a multiage classroom. The classroom and my hands on approach to teaching and learning had families questioning what and how students were learning. My thought was to use a portfolio system if I was ever in that situation again, but I'm a digital native and need something electronic. I know if it's not electronic I won't do as well implementing and using it... and likewise teaching it to colleagues.

DavidWe waves to Bridget

SeanMa: So this may be another thing that would work in my classroom but much harder to do at the District level?

BridgetM: sorry I'm late

JosephU: I think that Moodle is probably better--it's a lot easier to implement and support, on a smaller scale. Sakai/OSPI would be a district project, with district resources

JosephU: to start in a single classroom, Moodle is a lot a lot easier.

JosephU: and can grow pretty easily, too

JosephU: (Hi Bridget! I was late, too!)

JosephU: Another good single-class (or medium-scale) solution is one that I've used in the past...CourseForum

JosephU: http://www.projectforum.com/courseforum/index.html

KathySa: Have you see the efolio system that is part of the ANGEL LMS system?

JosephU: Yeah, I've seen it.

JosephU: Are you using it?

KathySa: How is it? I haven't seen it, but will be going to the ANGEL conference in June.

KathySa: We currently use ANGEL for CMS but haven't spread our wings to the efolio yet.

SeanMa: Does Desire 2 Learn have anything like this?

JosephU: We're a Blackboard campus, so Angel's not in our future

KathySa: We migrated from BB.

JosephU: generally, I don't like the eport's that plug into proprietary CMS's (including Bboard)

KathySa: Currently, we use paper...so I am thinking that any move to an efolio would be a step forward.

JosephU: Oh, absolutely. paper's not the way to go anymore, I think

JosephU: Sean--Desire2learn does have an eportfolio product

JosephU: I'm not too familiar with it

JosephU: http://www.desire2learn.com/products/products_portfolio.asp

DavidWe wants to ask a non-technical question

JosephU: non-technical is even better!

DavidWe: Part of any portfolio assessment is a change in approach, right?

JosephU: yes--that's a big part, and many times the most important hurdle

DavidWe agrees

BridgetM: big change from standardized multiple choice assessment

DavidWe: The technology will change, hopefully get better, but USING Portfolio assessment takes some "consideration", I would guess

JosephU: Yes-

JosephU: part of that consideration, too, is starting to see portfolio not just as assessment--not to measure learning only,

JosephU: but also to be part of the process of learning

JosephU: that's one of the major strengths--but it's a big cultural shift in many institutions

KathySa: We use them as more of an assessment of our programs rather than of the student.

JosephU: I think that's a good use, too--and one way to attract higher administrators to the idea

JosephU: But for me the most exciting part is the opportunity (and encouragement) for students to do reflection and meta-learning...and to integrate their learning across different classes and throughout their tenure at the institution (and beyond)

KathySa: Do schools generally allow infinite access for graduates?

JosephU: That's a tricky question. I've talked to people from some schools where they promise "lifetime" access

JosephU: But what does "lifetime" really mean, when technology changes so quickly?

KathySa: That could mean next week with the way technology changes.

JosephU: right!

JosephU: I think it's reasonable to guarantee a certain number of years after students graduate (or transfer)

JosephU: 5? 10?

KathySa: Have you seen students use their portfolios for extensive periods of time after graduation?

JosephU: And then to have the portfolio (presentation versions and raw materials) available on CD after it goes off the servers

JosephU: Kathy, I don't think that these projects have really been around for extensive periods of time yet.

JenniferSc: I graduated 8 years ago from my teacher ed program and still update it now. Granted, it is a paper version, but I can see myself converting it.

SeanMa: Thank you for your time. I'll be heading out now.

JosephU: I don't know anyone who's been doing Eport's for more than 5 years

JosephU: Thanks for coming, Sean!

SeanMa left the room (signed off).

DavidWe: Pretty cool, Jennifer

JosephU: Paper portfolios, sure--and in a certain sense, Jennifer, digital is a lot easier to update and re-use

JenniferSc: Yeah, I was a graduate of JHU, which went electronic the year after I graduated.

DavidWe nods

JosephU: Oh! Jennifer!

JosephU: I'm talking to JHU right now.

JosephU: I like their electronic portfolio very much, and I think we're going to license it!

JenniferSc: As I've come to learn, they are ahead of their time there - pioneers for sure.

JosephU: You have some smart people in the CTE there!

JosephU: And they're thinking about what's best for education, students and educators-- which is not always true of the commercial products

JosephU: Is anyone going to the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education conference in March? http://www.aace.org/conf/site/

JosephU: They're going to have a lot of eportfolio sessions.

DavidWe: I went to a couple of those some years ago

DavidWe: My guess there will be a number of sessions on portfolios at NECC as well

JosephU: Oh yes, I'm sure there will be. It's the hot topic these days

DavidWe: Have you come across David Niguidula, Joseph?

BJB2: Bridget is doing a portfolio session at NECC

JosephU: No, I don't recognize the name, David

BridgetM . o O (shh, BJ)

DavidWe: I'm doing a session at NECC

BJB2 smiles

BridgetM: presentation on a work in progress

DavidWe: He's been doing presentations on Digital Portfolios for a number of years

JosephU: I'm sorry I can't make it, Bridget!

DavidWe: I'll re-post the web site I shared earlier

JosephU: That's what I get for being late!

DavidWe: http://www.ideasconsulting.com/dp_main.htm

DavidWe . o O (not to worry)

BridgetM: me too!

JosephU: Thanks

JosephU: I'll take a look at that, David

JosephU: --looks useful. appreciation!

JenniferSc: Thanks for all of the great links; take care all.

JenniferSc left the room (signed off).

BridgetM: I'm sticking this link here to read later: Niguidula article, The Digital Portfolio: A Richer Picture of Student Performance
http://www.essentialschools.org/cs/resources/view/ces_res/225

BridgetM: oops. missed Jennifer, but she'll find it from David's link

BridgetM: I did

KathySa: Thanks for all of the information everyone. Take care.

JosephU: Looks like we're ready to adjourn?

BJB2: Thanks, Joseph. Did you want me to send you the earlier part of the transcript?

BridgetM: now if I could find readings on elementary digital portfolios I might save myself much time - process errors

JosephU: That would be terrific, BJ

BridgetM: me too, please, kind BJ

BJB2: that's half the learning experience, Bridget!

JosephU: there did seem to be some elementary examples on that Niguidula site, Bridget

BJB2 nods about the transcript.

BridgetM: I'll go back to read more!

BridgetM: is this a monthly group?

BJB2: yes.

BJB2: you should join

BJB2: then you'll get reminders about meetings

BJB2 . o O (Joe has gotten pretty good about that   )

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe waves bye

BridgetM: yea! yes I will join before signing off

BJB2: give her a hb hug from me, David

BJB2: Next ePortolio meeting is Feb 16

JosephU: good night everybody.

BridgetM: ah, I see I am a member. So hard to keep up with online and real life

JosephU: See you in February

BJB2 waves goodnight to Joseph

BridgetM: good night and thank you