

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

**SarahG:** So, what's up for discussion today?

**TiffanyDK:** Hello

**JosephU:** well--I'm open for questions. LaGuardia Community College has a new eportfolio website up, if that's interesting

**TiffanyDK:** sure, why not

**SarahG:** sound interesting

**JosephU:** <http://www.eportfolio.lagcc.cuny.edu/>

**JosephU:** That's the site--LaGuardia is a sister school, and Brett Eynon is a friend, so I'm somewhat familiar with what they're doing.

**KayP:** Hello Joseph, I am here to learn all about e-portfolios.

**JosephU:** That's great, Kay--what would you like to know to start with? Do you have some specific questions?

**DeliseW:** I am also here to learn about e-portfolios

**JosephU:** Should we do a round of introductions?

**SarahG:** sure

**KayP:** I work at an academic alternative school and we are looking more into project based learning for next year.

**JosephU:** I'm Joe Ugoretz--I teach English and I'm director of Teaching and Learning with Technology at Borough of Manhattan Community College

**TiffanyDK:** My name is Tiffany King, I am currently doing my student teaching with the University of Houston

**KayP:** I am from the beautiful Texas Hill Country. The home of LBJ and George Strait.

San Marcos, Texas is the home also to Texas State University.

**SarahG:** I'm finishing up my student teaching here in Houston. I actually have an e-portfolio documenting my pre-service experience.

**DeliseW:** I am Delise Williams. I am currently enrolled at Midwestern State University as a Curriculum and Instruction Major (graduate student)

**DeliseW:** I am really from the Caribbean

**KayP:** Delise, I love the name.

**DeliseW:** Thank you

**JosephU:** Nice to meet you all, and hello Nahir

**NahirA:** I'm a Venezuelan teacher of English in Caracas

**JosephU:** Sarah tells us she has an eportfolio of her pre-service experience...Sarah, is it public? Can you share a link?

**SarahG:** sure

**MelissaAW:** Hi! I am a 3rd grade teacher in Maryland. I am finishing up my Masters in Technology, and will be presenting my E-Portfolio in a few weeks.

**SarahG:** <http://viking.coe.uh.edu/~sgonza29>

**KayP:** Thanks, Sarah!

**SarahG:** If you guys have any suggestions, feel free to e-mail me.

**DeliseW:** Melissa this is really neat

**TiffanyDK:** Good job Sarah. What district are you with. I'm with Alief but I am a member of Quest too! Never seen you...

**KayP:** Hi Carole

**NahirA:** Did you use a special program for it?

**SarahG:** Awesome Tiffany! I am in Galena Park.

**CaroleAG:** Hi Kay and all

**SarahG:** I used FrontPage.

**NahirA:** is it online, for free?

**NahirA:** I'm a newbie

**SarahG:** Tiffany, do you have a portfolio too?

**NahirA:** in tech

**DeliseW:** I have never done one...but I am really interested

**NahirA:** so am I

**TiffanyDK:** yeah, it's <http://viking.coe.uh.edu/~tking>

**JosephU:** Sarah and Tiffany--did you find that these eportfolios were different for you than a paper portfolio might have been?

**DeliseW:** I like yours as well tiffany

**SarahG:** definitely

**NahirA:** It's so nice

**DeliseW:** could you share with us some of the ways in which they were different?

**TiffanyDK:** Thanks, I think the eportfolio is much easier

**SarahG:** We are also required to complete a paper portfolio for student teaching and I like it too, but the e-portfolio allows you to keep things super organized.

**DeliseW:** yes they are

**SarahG:** You can also update as much as you like.

**TiffanyDK:** I think you can do more with an eportfolio. Plus parents would be much more interested in looking at the portfolio than a piece of paper. It is a great home/school connection for the classroom

**SarahG:** It's amazing what can be done with technology and how there are simple ways to use it in the classroom.

**MelissaAW:** Nice job ladies! I wish that I was able to be just as creative in my eportfolio. We use a program through the university that really just requires us to add text and artifacts (documents) that show that we met the standards. It looks like you both had fun creating yours.

**DeliseW:** ok....that is one of the issues we are discussing in my technology integration class

**DeliseW:** everything on the internet is pretty much malleable

**SarahG:** It has been challenging but definitely fun.

**KayP:** I love the e-portfolios because I am right brained and I like the visual literacy component. I enjoy the color and the balance. Art is one of my teaching fields.

**SarahG:** yes it is Delise.

**JosephU:** I think there's a balance that's often difficult...we want to allow creativity, but it does make the learning curve steeper.

**JosephU:** Templates are so much easier to use.

**TiffanyDK:** It's not as hard as it looks.

**SarahG:** They really are.

**DeliseW:** and it is good that you find something that works for you...being right brained and all....that's very good

**SarahG:** Yeah, once you get started, the ideas are endless

**TiffanyDK:** Does anyone else have a portfolio?

**JosephU:** Tiffany, did you already have some experience with FrontPage and web design? Or did the college provide training and support?

**SarahG:** It can be time consuming though. I have found myself in the lab working on my portfolio for hours.

**MelissaAW:** One benefit that I've seen with having an eportfolio versus a paper one is that you don't have to lug a 50 lb. binder around, you don't waste a forest in paper, and anyone can view it with the url address.

**TiffanyDK:** I had no experience. We got the "ends and outs" but I just figured most of the creative parts out on my own. There are several free web templates and graphics just for educators

**SarahG:** I am also interested in seeing other people's portfolios so if anyone else would like to share that would be great.

**KayP:** At-risk kids are for the most part.....Usually right-brained kids stuck in a left-brained institution called the public school system. E-portfolios work out really well for them.

**TiffanyDK** agrees with Melissa

**DeliseW:** do you have the links to those free web templates...I can share them with my class

**TiffanyDK:** Didn't know that Kay

**TiffanyDK:** Yeah, give me a second

**SarahG:** I think we do receive scripts through your e-mail.

**DeliseW:** yes we do receive them there

**JosephU:** I have a collection of student portfolios from a composition class here

**JosephU:** <http://www.mountebank.org/courseforum/8.html>

**JosephU:** This was a little different from what we've seen before, eportfolios for students in one class, covering just their work in that course

**KoriR:** Any suggestions for how to do eportfolios with only one computer or few spaces in a computer lab

**DeliseW:** yes this would be a great way for students to display what they have learned during the entire course

**SarahG:** Maybe students could work on their portfolios in class while other students are working on other activities.

**JosephU:** Yes--if you click on the "student pages" on that site, you can see what they did

**SarahG:** Sort of like a workstation.

**TiffanyDK:** <http://www.cutecolors.com>

**DeliseW:** maybe it could be a group activity instead of an individual one

**JosephU:** That makes sense, Sarah. There has to be some kind of turn-taking if there's only limited computer access

**MelissaAW:** I really have wanted to be able to set my 3rd grade students up with eportfolios...like the samples that you just shared with us Joseph. I am not sure how it

would be possible to get a lot done with a classroom full of students and only one computer.

**DeliseW:** there is much more scope for creativity

**NahirA:** Joseph, I read one by a Venezuelan boy!

**KayP:** There are some school districts that are starting e-portfolios in the 1st grade, and they follow the student right through high school.

**MelissaAW:** It would have to be a rotation schedule. Each students would probably end up on the computer a few times a week.

**JosephU:** Yes, Nahir! I have students from all over the world.

**KoriR:** I teach in Kentucky and the big thing right now is the writing portfolios at the end of the year- certain kinds of pieces that are required it is hard to get students in to the computer room- anyone else here from Kentucky that may have the situation

**SarahG:** That's interesting Kay.

**NahirA:** It must be really exciting

**JosephU:** You know, I think that we might have to use this kind of project as ammunition to get more resources for our students.

**KayP:** I was born in Middlesboro, Kentucky. BUT, I am not teaching there at the moment.

**JosephU:** Nahir, I love where I work! <http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu>

**TiffanyDK:** [www.countryclipart.com/welcome.htm](http://www.countryclipart.com/welcome.htm) . Here is a list <http://www.webtech.kennesaw.edu/jcheeck3/graphics.htm>

**SarahG:** The first grade class I was working in for my first placement were creating powerpoint presentation, some of which were pretty extensive so I wouldn't underestimate the capabilities of first graders creating an e-portfolio. I would love to see one.

**KayP:** Thanks guys

**KoriR:** The CATs testing and KERA make it sometimes really hard to integrate the technology and do stuff with the computers because we only have about 40 computers and over 600 students fighting for them almost everyday

**DeliseW:** that is a major complaint I hear from my class mates

**JosephU:** I heard a speaker at a conference a few months ago who proposed that in the near future, everyone will begin an eportfolio at birth, and continue it through an entire lifetime

**MelissaAW:** Same issue at my school.

**KoriR:** Is there a basic site I can go to and take a look at some basic eportfolios to get an idea, maybe I could use it next year

**DeliseW:** the time for innovation is pretty scarce

**KayP:** I believe that Joseph!

**DeliseW:** My professor suggested that if we showcase what we plan to do.. things may be easier

**JosephU:** Helen Barrett has a pretty comprehensive roundup  
<http://electronicportfolios.org/portfolios.html>

**JosephU:** That might help, Kori

**KayP:** Sometimes, you "gotta" look for grant money all by yourself. Join the TI discussion on Great Grants. Get those computers!!!!

**MelissaAW:** So, in a few years, each student will bring their own laptop to school, or have one provided by the school, and there won't be this shortage problem. :-) Am I dreaming? And, I love the idea of lifetime eportfolios!! I wish I had begun one way back!

**JosephU:** Yep--grants are out there

**KoriR:** thanks Joseph I will take a look at that

**JosephU:** And the \$100 laptop is coming soon

**DeliseW:** Some schools here in Wichita falls already provide laptops for all the students

**KoriR:** Melissa I have a classmate at a high school that many of her English students have a laptop provided to them by the school

**MelissaAW:** I live in the wrong place then. (Maryland)

**KayP:** YES, the \$100 lap top. I just read an article on it for my PBS Capstone I course.

**SarahG:** I can't wait for that \$100 laptop!

**JosephU:** Wales is already providing eports for all citizens--that's 3 million

**SarahG:** That is awesome Delise!

**KoriR:** Don't expect them soon- most are going to third world countries

**DeliseW:** the good thing is that you guys already have ideas which the students can use....the major complaint is that the students have the laptops but are not doing anything constructive

**MelissaAW:** So, when students apply for colleges, they will have a plethora of information to share in college interviews. I love it!

**SarahG:** very true

**SarahG:** I didn't really think of it that way Delise.

**NahirA:** I saw a video report about schools in TV teachers, sorry I don't have the link now, they showed schools working with technology, Great!!!!

**DeliseW:** these are the things on which they can work while at home

**KayP:** Kori is right.....The lap tops are going to third world countries right now. We still have the digital divide.

**MelissaAW:** So, are there guidelines for creating eportfolios? Or is it still relatively new that there are none?

**NahirA:** we are not getting those laptops in Venezuela

**DeliseW:** We wont get them where I am from either...but because I am in touch with my students I know many of them have computers at home

**DeliseW:** this is something they can work on at home

**JosephU:** Nahir, eventually, those laptops should be coming to developing countries...that's who MIT is creating them for!

**JosephU:** But eventually is the key word

**KayP:** Well, I think one would need an objective. The ones on the school levels that I have viewed were artifacts.....A student's past. What he created in third grade, fourth grade, etc.

**NahirA:** Tiffany, those courses in your portfolio, Did you take or teach them?



**KoriR:** I saw an article on them too and they didn't look very sturdy

**JosephU:** Melissa...there are lots of guidelines, but it depends on the purpose and objective of the eportfolio

**NahirA:** I hope to be around, still

**JosephU:** it's really a broad category, with a lot of different uses

**KoriR:** any examples of a science teacher having her class create one

**MelissaAW:** And, there is really no limit to what you put on one?

**SarahG:** I'm sure there are guidelines somewhere. I really like the way our teachers taught us to develop our portfolios. She actually created online modules for us to watch and showed us step by step how to develop them.

**SarahG:** After that, it's simply your ideas and creativity that go into them.

**KoriR:** does your teacher have a link to that Sarah

**DeliseW:** great...creativity is what is guiding the world

**SarahG:** Nahir, those classes were required for us to take at the Univ. of Houston

**JosephU:** At BMCC we're going to be using the system developed by Johns Hopkins U. They have a good website here

**JosephU:** <http://olms.cte.jhu.edu/olms/output/page.php?id=2845>

**NahirA:** ok. thanks

**TiffanyDK:** Nahir, I took the courses, sorry, my computer froze

**NahirA:** ok

**KayP:** Thanks for the link, Joseph. I will spend some time on that site.

**NahirA:** we are way behind on using tech in schools

**SarahG:** She doesn't have a link to the modules. sorry

**MelissaAW:** Joseph, mine is actually through that system at JHU - that's where I'm getting my masters. I don't know how to do everything on it yet, but it doesn't seem like I can make it as "fun" as Tiffany's and Sarah's.

**NahirA:** I guess those are paid

**KoriR:** at the university of Louisville dept. of ed I am taking my MEd in middle school science and before we finish we are required to buy livetext for \$89 and produce a eportfolio

**JosephU:** That's cool, Melissa

**SarahG:** wow!!

**JosephU:** It's definitely true that the JHU system is not as fun or customizable

**KayP:** We always have to pay for the fun stuff!

**TiffanyDK:** Melissa, have faith in yourself : )

**JosephU:** Yeah, Kori, I felt it was important that our students not be required to pay anything.

**NahirA:** I agree

**JosephU:** They already pay a technology fee every semester, and I didn't want them to have to pay more on top of that

**SarahG:** I guess our server space was paid for using our technology fee.

**KoriR:** I would love to do something similar with my students but not sure how to begin and I definitely would not like my students to produce something so dry

**JosephU:** These are community college, students, though--might be different at a graduate school

**NahirA:** Isn't it possible to do it by using blogs? They are free

**SarahG:** I was going to suggest that too.

**JosephU:** Yes--blogs are a good option.

**NahirA:** and you or they can upload anything

**JosephU:** <http://www.xanga.com> has a lot of fun and cool design features

**JosephU:** free

**NahirA:** important

**JosephU:** but it's only officially for age 13 and up

**KoriR:** I would also question about publishing them online- what about the whole confidentiality thing

**SarahG:** We also have to keep a blog of our experiences.

**JosephU:** well, Kori, I think there's two different schools of thought there.

**JosephU:** It's probably best to keep \*both\* a private and a public portfolio

**NahirA:** you can set the blogs to be seen only for the people you want

**NahirA:** or commented , sorry

**JosephU:** Some things are best kept confidential, but it's also very useful for students to feel that they have a real public, a real-world audience

**KoriR:** what about just in house private portfolios that are stored on kids login names

**NahirA:** an intranet can be used, if the school has it

**JosephU:** Yes, you can do those, too. But I would still urge you to think about having a public face, in addition. It adds a seriousness to the work, and gives students experience presenting themselves appropriately.

**MelissaAW:** Feel free to peek at what I've got so far. I am not finished with it. It is just lots of words. But, this is the system that Joseph mentioned.

<http://cte.jhu.edu/ep/presentation/init.cfm?key=38E9BC8F-DCD2-4D28-BD875F8072BDCFDD>

**NahirA:** well, Tiff and Sarah's are online

**JosephU:** The first time they get a comment or response from an outsider, someone who doesn't know them, it really raises the level of commitment

**KoriR:** okay at this point I must be confused about the difference between an eportfolio is and a regular portfolio that is done on the computer using the different programs

**JosephU:** No difference...that's why you're confused!

**JosephU:** The terms are thrown around very loosely

**JosephU:** An eportfolio can be almost anything you say it is...as long as it's a collection of stuff presented electronically.

**DeliseW:** does it have to be individual?

**KoriR:** but why publish it for someone who doesn't know the context of the assignment- would it not be better to stay in house and allow someone who knows what is going on to evaluate it

**DeliseW:** can it be a group project?

**JosephU:** Sure, you can have a group portfolio.

**SarahG:** I think as long as you state a purpose for the portfolio then the public will have an easier time understanding it.

**DeliseW:** ok...thanks

**MelissaAW:** I think someone mentioned having a class portfolio - especially with limited computer use.

**JosephU:** Oh, well, the assignment should be longitudinal...demonstrating progress over a long period of time

**TiffanyDK:** I agree

**DeliseW:** I did but there was not a comment..so I was not sure

**MelissaAW:** It sounds like a good idea. At least a start. Once you get the hang of it, having individual student portfolios would be a good next step.

**JosephU:** And presenting it to the public is an interesting exercise for students-- communicating what they've learned to people who \*didn't\* learn it! That forces students to think deeply about what they've learned--and that cements the learning.

**JosephU:** At least in theory.

**KoriR:** I think I'm still not really understanding here- maybe I'm thinking too hard on this but I am still not understanding why have complete strangers-anyone who can just pop on to the site which holds the portfolio comment

**SarahG:** I agree Joseph.

**JosephU:** Maybe you have a specific idea of one kind of portfolio, Kori? And maybe the idea of "public" is too large...

**SarahG:** I think that anyone seeking a particular portfolio maintains an interest in it and has a level of understanding of the contents of it.

**NahirA:** Kori, the idea of publishing was because we were talking about paying for programs, and I suggested blogs because they are free

**MelissaAW:** I am going to be searching for a new job in about a year. Having my eportfolio will be nice, because I can mention it in my cover letters - then prospective jobs can take a peek, and get a better picture of what I can do.

**KoriR:** I think I might agree- CATS portfolios have been beaten into my head- especially this week since next week I will spend about 3 hours scoring them

**JosephU:** Think about \*interested\* outsiders...prospective employers, Grad school admissions, teachers of other courses,

**NahirA:** free

**JosephU:** Yeah--that could be it, Kori. There are portfolios which are very specifically designed to assess certain standards...

**JosephU:** Those aren't going to be too interesting to outsiders

**JosephU:** But Sarah's or Tiffany's, for example, are very interesting to anyone who might be thinking about teaching, or about their degree programs, or people who might want to hire them

**SarahG:** exactly!

**KoriR:** that's the ones I am used to developing- so I guess I need to just explore yahoo and get an idea of the kinds of portfolios you are talking about- but it sounds like these are more for job interviews or writing programs- maybe not very useful in my field of science education unless you know of some examples

**JosephU:** (Interestingly, I just heard on the radio that NYC is going to be offering big money for housing support--in addition to salary--for anyone who will come here to teach math and science)

**KoriR:** I know a bunch of Filipino teachers who would love to take you up on that offer

**JosephU:** By big money, I mean \$15,000

**JosephU:** \$5,000 up front, and then \$400 a month for two years

**KoriR:** sounds like enough for a closet apartment? :)

**SarahG:** I would just keep in mind what you want your portfolio to consist of. I mean do you want lessons, experiments, reflections...stuff like that Kori.

**JosephU:** In NYC? Yeah. A closet. :-)

**JosephU:** Folks, we're down to the last 5 minutes here...any final questions?

**KoriR:** I looked at the Peace Corps Fellowship at Columbia Teacher's College- but cost of living was too high

**TiffanyDK:** nope

**SarahG:** No. Thanks everyone!

**DeliseW:** I have thoroughly enjoyed the session...thank you

**TiffanyDK:** I enjoyed everyone

**KoriR:** Are there other sites I can look at to explore eportfolios at the middle school/high school level

**SarahG:** Good luck Tiffany in your last week.

**KayP:** I decided to sit back and "Listen"....Thanks for the information. I feel better already!

**NahirA:** no, Joseph. Thank you very much for sharing, guys.

**MelissaAW:** Thanks to everyone who shared links. They were very helpful!

**JosephU:** That Helen Barrett site I linked above is a good starting place, Kori

**KoriR:** what was that site again?

**JosephU:** <http://electronicportfolios.org/portfolios.html>

**MelissaAW:** Thanks for a great discussion.

**KoriR:** Have a good evening

**JosephU:** Good night everyone!