Title of Session: e-Portfolios
Moderator: Joseph Ugoretz
Title of File: 20070117eportfolios
Date: January 17, 2007

Room: e-Portfolio Group

DavidWe joined the room.

DavidWe: Hi, Joseph. Happy New Year

JosephU: Hi David!

JosephU: Happy 2007

DavidWe: Thanks very much

DavidWe: Have you come across the name David Niguidula with respect to Digital Portfolios?

DavidWe: He's an old friend, is based in Providence, Rhode Island - used to work with the Coalition of Essential Schools

DavidWe: http://www.richerpicture.com/

JosephU: I think you mentioned last month (2 months ago!), right?

DavidWe: I may have

DavidWe: He saw the transcript from the session I substituted for you

DavidWe: I was reading his web page and typing as fast as I could

JosephU: Seems like good stuff he's got!

JosephU: Might he join us?

DavidWe: How was that conference at John Jay? I didn't make it there

DavidWe: I'd like to invite him...I'll see him in the Bronx, actually, on 31 January

JosephU: I looked for you! Conference was good--big crowd.

DavidWe: Great

JosephU: Invite him to join us next month, please...that would be great!

DavidWe: I was in Philly in the morning and I just decided it wasn't worth it for me to make a mad dash back and try to catch a few of the afternoon sessions

DavidWe: I will...just didn't get my act together to let him now about tonight

JosephU: fair enough--I know how that happens!

DavidWe: Do you know that group - the National Academy for Excellent Teaching - some project based at Teachers' College?

DavidWe . o O (www.nafet.org)

DavidWe . o O (www.nafet.net)

JosephU: yes--know *of* them anyway--I'm a TC alum, but that was a long time ago.

CarolN joined the room.

DavidWe smiles

JosephU: HI Carol!

CarolN: Hello, just got in. I work in a high school.

DavidWe: We sympathize, Carol

BJB2: no problem, Carol. We waited for you

JosephU: absolutely!

DavidWe smiles

BJB2: you know how to detach your chat window, Carol?

CarolN: yup. done.

BJB2: Perhaps we should start with introductions, Joseph?

JosephU: yes--good idea.

JeffC joined the room.

BJB2: I teach remedial communication in Pennsylvania

BJB2 waves to Jeff

JosephU: Hi Jeff--we're doing introductions.

DavidWe: I'm one of the HelpDesk volunteers. I lead a math education and technology discussion in Tapped In. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City

JosephU: I am Director of Teaching and Learning with Technology and a professor of English at a community college in NYC. We started an eportfolio project this year with our Teacher Education students

CarolN: I'm a high school librarian in northern Michigan.

CarolN: Traverse City is in NW lower MI

JosephU: Carol, have you been with us before? I don't remember, please forgive me!

JeffC: I'm on Helpdesk also, in Forest Grove Oregon.

CarolN: Occasionally I meet with the Librarian group on the 3rd Wed.

JosephU: great. have any eportfolio experience or specific questions or topics you'd like to bring up?

CarolN: Have done a very basic one.

JosephU: For the library, or you personally? Saw an interesting presentation a while back about a library (Brooklyn College)

JosephU: which had its own myspace

CarolN: We're supposed to use it for our year-end evaluation. Previous admin. didn't do much with it. This year will require more.

JosephU: so, it's for evaluation of the library by admin?

CarolN: Of me by admin.

JosephU: Ah! So like a teaching portfolio.

JosephU: How do like it? Better way to be evaluated?

CarolN: yup. But I would hope to be able to morph it to other uses.

DavidWe: Yes, it should serve multiple purposes, ideally

JosephU has words taken out of his mouth by David

DavidWe smiles

JosephU: Carol, how is it constructed? Using template, system? HTML?

CarolN: Template. Pretty basic. Has groups of objects Like goals, etc.

JosephU: So not too easy to repurpose, huh?

CarolN: Not at work now, and haven't looked at it for a couple years. May be html as I put in links documents and pictures.

CarolN: The whole document wouldn't be useful elsewhere. Wondering if I could snitch a part of it into another form.

JosephU: you know, though, I think if you've at least done the basic work of thinking about how to organize and what to include and what it demonstrates about you....that's a great head start.

CarolN: what are some other formats for eportfolios?

JosephU: there's really a big range--some places use proprietary systems, others build totally from scratch,

CarolN: using html?

DavidWe: Or other web-based database systems, I would think

JosephU: when built from scratch, yes, usually use html (via dreamweaver, or frontpage...or even MS Word)

CarolN: yuk to html in word.

DavidWe agrees with Carol

JosephU: oh, yuk is right! But learning curve is very easy with that.

DavidWe smiles

JosephU: One product (commercial, but inexpensive) that I've tried is courseforum

JosephU projects http://www.projectforum.com/cf/usage.html

JosephU: It works like a wiki--easy to make new pages, new links, do formatting, and add files

CarolN: Can you give an example of why posts would be good on a portfolio?

DavidWe: Ease of use is VERY important

JosephU: Posts?

CarolN: Like a wiki. It mentions posts in the discussion section.

JosephU: oh! I see!

CarolN: Guess you wouldn't'

JosephU: I used this to have students create course portfolios for a composition course

CarolN: oops. guess you wouldn't need to use the posts feature.

JosephU: so the "post" feature let students post comments on each others' portfolios--and individual assignments in the portfolio in progress.

JosephU: examples here

JosephU projects http://www.mountebank.org/courseforum/8.html

JosephU: (Click on "student pages")

JosephU: (Professor Clark) is the external reviewer for their final portfolios

CaroleMc joined the room.

DavidWe waves to Carole

DavidWe: Hi, Carole.

CaroleMc: apologies for my really late arrival

JosephU: Hello, Carole!

CaroleMc: Hi Joseph

CarolN: Hello to another Carol.

CaroleMc: hi there

JosephU: We have 10 or 15 minutes left--do you have anything in particular you would like to ask or discuss?

CaroleMc: what eports do you recommend for teachers?

CarolN: Do businesses expect an eportfolio from job applicants?

JosephU: Oh boy, good questions!

JosephU smiles

JosephU: easy answer? It depends.

JosephU: but that doesn't help much, does it?

BJB2: Joseph has placed some portfolio resources in the featured items...and hopefully will add the ones he shared today

CaroleMc: excellent

JosephU: Yes, sure! One that I should add--thought it was there, but it's not--is Dr. Helen Barrett's webpage

JosephU: http://electronicportfolios.com/

JosephU: Great for big overview

CarolN: thanks. Would you remind me where to locate the "featured items.?

CaroleMc: I'm familiar with that one. Helen and I are co-facilitating in March in Australia

CaroleMc: I'm looking now at OSP

BJB2: Carol, featured items are on the welcome screen above this chat window. If you've detached, it's on the other screen

BJB2 . o O (probably behind your chat window)

JosephU: OSP is good idea...**IF** you have the technical support.

JosephU: at your institution

CaroleMc: Joseph what eport do you prefer for functionality?

JosephU: Well, it depends on institutional needs and goals--I'm not trying to be difficult, but my research really hasn't led me to find a one-size-fits-all solution.

CaroleMc: that's okay, I think you're right on that score

JosephU: But let me explain (very briefly) our needs and our decision

CaroleMc: ok

JosephU: I'm at a big urban community college--and wanted something that could start with our Teacher Ed students, and move from there to other programs

JosephU: Many of our students are recent immigrants, so not skilled in English or (sometimes) in technology

BJB2 . o O (what about http://www.cfkeep.org/static/index.html ?)

JosephU: and many have relatively weak academic skills when they enter.

JosephU: Keep toolkit is good--for some purposes--have used it for Scholarship of Teaching Fellows at my institution.

JosephU: But for our students needed large ease of use, easy transport out (many students transfer to other institutions)

JosephU: and needed no cost to students--hosted at our institution

JosephU: also wanted emphasis on reflection and development--and multiple presentations.

CaroleMc: all of that is very familiar and relevant to me

JosephU: finally settled on Johns Hopkins system

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

JosephU: (also in featured links)

JosephU: Very pleased with it so far--

CaroleMc: looking at that link now, thanks

JosephU: nice folks, good system...

CaroleMc: cost?

CarolN: so long. Thank you for your sites. Hope to check into them more later.

DavidWe waves to Carol

CaroleMc: bye carol

CarolN left the room.

JosephU: bye carol, thanks!

JosephU: The cost, too, depends, Carole.

CaroleMc: thought so

JosephU: We decided to go with a plan where we purchase a perpetual license, one-time big expenditure, and no charge to students or not ongoing charge to us.

JosephU: so that was big money in one shot--but we saved our students having to pay, and we got control and upgrades for the future.

CaroleMc: that was a smart move then

JosephU: But they have other models where they host and there's a per-user fee

JosephU: and they also have licensing deal with a publisher where students pay directly

CaroleMc: cool

CaroleMc: thanks so much for being patient and answering questions you've probably already covered today

JosephU: No problem. Glad to help and discuss. Come back again or email whenever you like.

JosephU: Time for me to quit and eat my dinner!

BJB2: Thanks for being here and leading the discussion, Joseph!

CaroleMc: I have learned a great deal in the short time - greetings from OZ.

JosephU: Good night everyone! (Or not night, in OZ!)