

Title of Session: e-Portfolios
Moderator: Joseph Ugoretz
Title of File: 20070221eportfolios
Date: February 21, 2007

Room: e-Portfolios Group

BJB2: While we wait anxiously for Joseph to arrive, I suggest you take a look at the resources in the group room...

BJB2: and join the group

BJB2: to join the group go to the Welcome note above this chat window

BJB2: Scroll to the sentence: This is the group room for E=Portfolios Discussion.

BJB2: click on the green i next to the group name

BJB2: above this chat window you will see the group ID page

BJB2: at the top is Join this Group

BJB2: Once you've successfully joined, click on Room View at the top of the screen to get back to the welcome screen

BJB2: . o O (I think if everyone joins the group and posts to the discussion board, it will make it more difficult for Joe to forget his sessions)

BJB2: Joe has put quite a few resources in the room

BJB2: . o O (under Featured Items)

BJB2: How about we start with a tip to go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat window and click on DETACH

BJB2: that will separate your web and chat window and make the chat easier to follow

BJB2: has anyone here had experience with e-portfolios?

JohnMF: no

JoseMH: I have not

VickiLM: Yes

DavidLE: I haven't

JenniferVG: Yes, some experience but not much

BJB2 grins...and smiles sweetly at Vicki and Jennifer...

BJB2: let's do introductions and then perhaps you two can share your experiences?

JenniferVG: ok, I'm a middle school computer teacher in New Jersey

JoseMH: I am an instructional technology student

JohnMF: HS teacher in northern VA. I teach Office, Adobe, Macromedia, etc.

BJB2: I'm a communication teacher in Pennsylvania

VickiLM: Technology trainer and adjunct education professor at small lib arts college

DavidLE: Doctoral Student in Higher Education

VickiLM: I've been team teaching the technology side of ePortfolios to all levels education majors. My co-teachers deal with the content.

BJB2: wonderful, Vicki! Do you use any specific software for this?

VickiLM: We used to use the free Netscape Composer, but have moved to Nvu - also free at <http://www.nvu.com/index.php> Works with Windows, Mac and Linux.

BJB2: has anyone tried a portfolio using a wiki or a blog?

JenniferVG: My students have been creating very basic E-portfolios using Microsoft Frontpage. We create links to all of their work in Art, Music, Technology and Computers. For some projects we link their files and for others we take pictures of their work and insert the pictures on to the pages.

BJB2: excellent, Jennifer. The critical issue I see for both of your students is who houses the web pages once they are created

JenniferVG: Right now we keep them on our school server since we have only completed them with one grade level but it will become a problem with more students.

VickiLM: I'm not sure of our state licensing requirements for the teacher ePortfolios to know if they would accept a blog or wiki for that particular major.

JoseMH: How long does it take to create it?

JenniferVG: For my students (7th grade) it takes about 10 x 40 minute class sessions to create them.

VickiLM: The actual creation with Nvu is pretty quick once familiar with the basics, but the students agonize over the design elements - sometimes more than the content. :^(

BJB2 nods solemnly

BJB2: I assume your students are able to store their portfolios on the school servers until they graduate...

BJB2: then what?

JoseMH: Do the students choose from a list of topics?

VickiLM: We begin the process for edu majors in their sophomore year, philosophy and business majors begin their pages in senior year, biology - depends on when internships begin

BJB2 . o O (I'd also like to revisit the question of content)

BJB2 . o O (does anyone else have questions?)

VickiLM: Our state requires teacher sites to remain active for 2 years after graduation, the rest are usually still available if you know the URL - the names are wiped from the public directory listing

JenniferVG: Our students take home a CD at the end of 8th grade with their work.

VickiLM: Our students are to copy their completed sites to CD as well

JoseMH: What criteria is used for grading?

JenniferVG: We grade based on their ability to use the program...create pages, link them, insert pictures, etc..

VickiLM: I can only speak to our education majors - they are graded on a predetermined list of content pieces, the page design (business-like), that the technology actually works (links, movies, audio), spelling. Those are the basics.

BJB2 chuckles...thank goodness SOMEONE checks for spelling!

BJB2 . o O (I thought spelling was a lost art)

VickiLM: You know it is amazing that the first year I did this I didn't add spelling to the written grading rubric and I really had a bad time with the students' comments at the final grading review - they were outraged that I was grading them on that!!

JoseMH: How has creating E-Portfolios enhanced student learning?

BJB2: interesting question, Jose....

BJB2 . o O (perhaps this is also related to reflective practices?)

VickiLM: Well for my students working 3 years on a project and revisiting the issues each semester has given them a greater confidence in technology, the group interaction when evaluating each other's work and the insights are improving each year.

BJB2: I love the idea of collaboration!

JenniferVG: For us, the creation of the E-Portfolio allows the students to reflect on their past projects and we have them comment on each assignment. It forces them to tie everything together and see how it's all related.

JoseMH: Student confidence is a major player in technology and its use.

BJB2: that also is very cool, Jennifer. Always interesting to see if the students understand the relationship among their projects

VickiLM: Another good outcome has been the "class leaders" are now wanting additional challenges, they've hit this ceiling and want to go higher - so this year's group actually requested additional technology instruction to meet their future learners' needs.

JoseMH: Awesome

BJB2 smiles...that is wonderful!

BJB2 . o O (nothing succeeds like success?)

VickiLM: What other subjects or majors are using the ePortfolio in innovative ways?

BJB2: I think that ePortfolios should be started for students in the first grade

VickiLM: BJ, you asked earlier about using wikis and blogs, have you seen any good example of ePortfolios using these tools?

BJB2: sort of, Vicki...

BJB2: you can do everything on a wiki and a blog that you can do on a webpage

BJB2: the wiki is more easily edited and can be a collaborative effort

BJB2: but you can add photos, movies, sound files

BJB2: would that format not be more portable for a teacher?

VickiLM: Of course if it's web based you can get to it anytime, anywhere so that's a great plus.

BJB2: there is a discussion on K-12 Teacher wikis next Wednesday

JoseMH: What exactly is wiki BJ?

BJB2 nods to Vicki.

BJB2: hmm...a wiki is a web 2.0 tool that is a collaborative webpage

BJB2: you can permit specific people to edit...

JoseMH: thanks

BJB2: I have a wiki you can play with in the Art of Storytelling group room...

BJB2: let me get you the url...

BJB2: a group of Tapped In members have been writing a story...

JoseMH: great

VickiLM: sounds like fun

BJB2: and another member recently added a new page with another storyline

BJB2 . o O (wonderful for creative writing.)

JosephU joined the room.

BJB2 faints

JosephU: I am soo sorry to be sooo late!

BJB2: <http://tappedin.wikispaces.com/>

JosephU: But I almost forgot entirely!

JoseMH: thanks BJ

BJB2: if you join the space you can edit the pages, add a page, just try out stuff.

BJB2: we've been having a delightful discussion, Joseph...

JosephU: Naturally!

JosephU smiles

BJB2: Vicki and Jennifer have been sharing their e-portfolio experiences

JosephU: I will listen--maybe you'll send me transcript of what I missed?

VickiLM: I'll have to check that one out as storytelling is one of the areas we're really pumping to meet the literacy issues for all grade levels

BJB2 nods to Joseph. My pleasure.

BJB2: cool, Vicki. We also had a couple discussions on wikis that you'll find in the Tapped In archives

BJB2 . o O (www.tappedin.org/transcripts)

VickiLM: I downloaded several transcripts while waiting for this discussion to begin

BJB2 laughs...see how much you were missed, Joseph!

JoseMH: Friends

JosephU sighs, blushes

BJB2: I had suggested the idea of using a blog or wiki for a portfolio, Joe...

VickiLM: Don't get by with much around here do you?

BJB2: have you had any experience with that?

BJB2 winks at Joe

BJB2: Vicki, we LOVE our Tapped In discussion leaders!

BJB2: they volunteer to do these monthly discussions and I've learned sooooo much from them

JosephU: yes--I think that a blog in particular works well. Wordpress, in particular, can be very easily setup as a CMS--so it's easily edited

JosephU: A wiki, too, would work

VickiLM: How is the learning curve on using it?

JenniferVG: How about a Podcast? Our digital music teacher suggested it.

BJB2: podcasts can be embedded in a blog

JenniferVG: Good point.

JosephU: there's a wordpress plugin called podpress

JosephU: it makes podcasting very simple

JosephU: learning curve is not at all difficult

JosephU: you can give it a try by starting blog at www.wordpress.com

JosephU: (although that won't allow you to install plugins)

BJB2: is there a fee for wordpress?

JosephU: For basic use in the hosted version, it's totally free

JoseMH: Joseph how long have you been involved with E-Portfolios?

JosephU: If you have a server to install on yourself, you can do everything wordpress can do (quite a lot) also free

JosephU: Jose, I started with paper portfolios in writing classes

JosephU: about 10-15 years ago.

JosephU: eportfolios I've been working with maybe three years?

JosephU: more or less

VickiLM: Is there a better way to use it -- online vs on your own internet server?

JosephU: That's a good question, Vicki.

JosephU: If your needs are basic, and you're just starting out, then using the hosted version at wordpress.com is better

JosephU: If you want to really get in and tinker (and have the knowledge to do that) then you need to put it on your own server

JosephU: There's a huge user community, so lots of help available on the web--and it's a lot easier to use than some others like Moodle

JosephU: I mean easier to set up, really. Moodle's pretty easy to use.

JoseMH: what's the difference?

VickiLM: I know there are many using Sakai and Moodle, but we just didn't like the features they offered when we tested them a year ago - I know they've added more since then

JosephU: Jose, I'm talking about setup--backend administration--vs. the experience of the user--the student or the teacher

JosephU: wordpress is simple for both. Moodle is easy for user, harder for administrator. Sakai is much harder for administrator. Joomla harder still.

VickiLM: You do have to have someone who knows what they're doing on that end of things or you are dead in the water

JosephU: yes, that's right, Vicki--but with wordpress that someone really doesn't have to know very much. And if you use the hosted version, that someone can be someone who knows even less.

VickiLM: Guess we'll have to check out what our "state" requires for the pre-service teachers on the ePortfolio to see if blogs and wikis are an option, that way they'd always have access and it wouldn't be outdated the minute they graduate.

JoseMH: Word press is my speed.

JosephU: Certainly worth a try. Both can even password protect--so there will be some help with privacy issues

JosephU: Yes--I'm a bit of a wordpress fanboy!

JosephU: Just finished setting up an art history site == a kind of web-text--using wp only.

VickiLM: never hurts to learn a new technology product

BJB2: speaking of which, Vicki...

BJB2: you might try to participate in some of Lynne Wolters' Web 2.0 discussions

VickiLM: Thanks, I'll look into that.

BJB2: we're at a very exciting time with the availability of interactive tools

VickiLM: Joseph, can you share the URL for the art history site?

JoseMH: Yes please

JosephU: Sure--it's still in development--not all the content is up yet, but you can have a look at it if you'll understand that it's in-progress.

JosephU: <http://www.smarthistory.org/site>

JoseMH: thanks

JosephU: (It's my wife and her colleague who are the two art historians behind it)

VickiLM: can't wait to check it out -

JenniferVG: Thanks....I have to run. I've enjoyed the chat!

VickiLM: Bye Jennifer

BJB2: very cool, Joe!

JenniferVG left the room (signed off).

BJB2: The next e-Portfolios discussion will be on March 21

VickiLM: See you then ;^)

JoseMH: I'll be there

BJB2: thanks for your help, Vicki, and your great questions, Jose

JoseMH: Thank you

VickiLM: Thanks All . . .

JosephU: good night, all!

BJB2: thanks, Joseph