

Title of Session: e-Portfolios
Moderator: Joseph Ugoretz
Title of File: 20070920eportfolio
Date: September 20, 2007

Room: e-Portfolio Group

BJB2: Welcome to this month's e-Portfolios discussion

BJB2: Let's start with introductions, please. Tell Joseph where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach

BJB2: I'm in Pennsylvania and teach remedial communication

MichelleW: I am a Librarian/Technology Coordinator in Hamilton City, CA

MarciaBe: I'm in Florida and teach information systems, business statistics F2F and strategies for success online where we use e-portfolios

JosephU: and I'm the director of technology and learning at Macaulay Honors College at the City University of New York..

JosephU: Nice to meet everyone!

JosephU: Well, we could start with general discussion (small crowd tonight!), or if anyone has a specific topic/question?

BJB2: Michelle, are you the person we sent the invite to today?

MichelleW: Yes, thank you. I had posted to LM_NET that we are interested in starting student portfolios...

MichelleW: so this is new territory. I am interested in a website solution and have been exploring a few options. I'm interested to hear what's working for others.

BJB2 nods....great!

JosephU: what have you looked at so far, Michelle? I remember from your post that you were trying frontpage templates?

BJB2 winks at Joseph...good job!

MarciaBe: My only experience has been a PowerPoint portfolio but we are looking in something called Live Text

MichelleW: Well, I've been to Helen Barrett's website (hope I'm spelling that right) and explored some of her resources...

JosephU: Yes--Helen has a pretty comprehensive collection

JosephU: a good starting point might be your own needs/criteria/goals

MichelleW: much of the content that's widely discussed on the web seems to be centered around teacher portfolios or link to outdated material...

JosephU: yep..

MichelleW: I'd love a solution like weebly.com (anyone seen it?) but that we could password protect...

MichelleW: considering a Google pages solution but it's not nearly as slick as weebly.

JosephU: don't know weebly...let me take a quick look

JosephU: oh-take it back--I do know weebly.

JosephU: so, Michelle, you're interested in an easy-to-develop presentation tool, mostly?

JosephU: but password protected?

BJB2 . o O (what about a wiki like the A K-12 Teacher Wiki?)

JosephU: can you host yourself? have server?

MichelleW: Wikis are an option. I'd rather not host myself. Small school. I'm the tech coordinator...one less thing for me to manage.

MichelleW: Is a K-12 Teacher Wiki a specific site?

MichelleW: Joseph...yes to "easy-to-develop presentation tool...password protected" Exactly what we're after.

JosephU: wetpaint might be a good solution...it's free, they host it, and the sites can be password protected

JosephU: <http://www.wetpaint.com>

MichelleW: I see wikis as mainly a collaborative tool. But are you suggesting it for simply its easy web creation capabilities?

MichelleW: Wetpaint...heading for a quick look.

JosephU: I've mainly seen it used for collaboration--but the ease of use/ease of editing is an important feature

MichelleW: wetpaint...I'm tagging it for playing later. Thanks.

BJB2: here's info about the
wiki <http://www.helpingstudents.org/JSPWiki/Wiki.jsp?page=Wikis>

JosephU: some people also use wordpress--it's a blogging tool, but doesn't have to be just that...you can host yourself or get free hosted version at wordpress.com

BJB2: btw, Michelle, all urls and text from this chat will be emailed to you when you log out

BJB2: Marcia, how are you doing?

JosephU: also the Keep toolkit

JosephU: <http://www.cfkeep.org/static/index.html>

MarciaBe: Learning by observation. Thanks for the resources

MarciaBe: I did get a response that /jspwiki/wiki.jsp is not available

BJB2: the owner of A K12 Teachers Wiki leads a discussion next Thursday at 9pm EDT

JosephU: One thing that I'm always concerned about with tools that are mainly oriented toward presentation is that they don't emphasize (or sometimes even leave room for) reflection

BJB2: hmmm...I was just there. Oh, well, try again later

MichelleW: I was able to hit the wiki and tagged it.

BJB2: interesting observation, Joe.

MarciaBe: How do you use your portfolios, Joseph?

JosephU: heh!

JosephU: I've just started a new job, where we don't have *any* yet.

JosephU: that's my project for this upcoming year

JosephU: we have college students for four years--

JosephU: every one of them has a laptop and free tuition

MarciaBe: I have talked to some HR people and they don't want to see them. My students who have done simple ones in PowerPoint find them satisfying to see what they have accomplished over the years.

JosephU: that's a good point, Marcia.

JosephU: I was working (at old job) with teacher ed students, and talked to principals who would be hiring them

JosephU: the principals said "we don't want to see portfolios. don't even look at them

MichelleW: Marcia-Are your PowerPoint portfolios kept locally or on the web?

JosephU: "we just want to talk to the person."

MarciaBe: They are uploaded to the web and I can make them private or public.

MichelleW: Would you be able to share one with us for an example?

MarciaBe: I have had the same response, Joseph and I'm not sure what external need we are filling other than a SACs recommendation.

MarciaBe: I'm not sure how to post files here but I could ask a student's permission if they would mind if I shared one.

JosephU: Marcia what is SAC?

MarciaBe: They can get very large but we are learning how to compress PowerPoint pretty good.

MarciaBe: I think it is Southern Accreditation of Colleges or something like that - I never hear it in the long form :-)

JosephU: for compressing and posting powerpoints Impatica is a very good tool...and there's also slideshare.net

JosephU: ah, accreditors! Thanks!

JosephU: I think that's often the impulse toward e-ports...to meet external standards, for assessment or accreditation

MarciaBe: Thanks, I'll look at them too. We are able to hyperlink, add scanned documents, put in writing samples and photos. They have been simple but have

impressed the students who made them.

JosephU: that's OK--it's important,

JosephU: but that's part of what makes me want to lean more toward reflection--because to me that's where the real use of eports lies. That's what makes them a revolutionary tool.

JosephU: But BJ has heard me sing this song before!

MichelleW: Apologies. My busy afterschool crowd is calling me away. You all have been so helpful and I don't want to miss the rest of the discussion. Will the entire discussion be mailed to me even if I exit now or should I keep window open?

MarciaBe: Do you use learning journals

MarciaBe: They are very good for reflection.

JosephU: Michelle, we'll be sure to mail you the whole transcript

MarciaBe: Bye Michelle.

JosephU: Yes--Marcia--that's exactly the principle I'm thinking of.

MichelleW: Thank you!!!

BJB2 waves bye to Michelle

JosephU: What the eport adds to the learning journals is the ability to have the "artifact" and the journal right next to each other--and to make different kinds of sharing very easy

MarciaBe: Our classroom management system is Moodle and open source program. I use learning journals within it and I have been pleased with the reflection shared there.

JosephU: yep. Moodle's great for that.

MarciaBe: What e-portfolios have you looked at?

JosephU: only problem is that you really do need a server and an IT staff (at least an IT person!).

MarciaBe: We actually use remote-learner.org and they handle all of that. I am administration but don't really have to do much.

JosephU: I've probably looked (at least briefly) at almost every option. In my old job I led an extensive search process, and finally selected a Johns Hopkins U solution (listed

on the group site).

MarciaBe: I'll check it out.

JosephU: remote-learner.org is a good way to do it if you don't have the resources for in-house.

MarciaBe: We don't and they have been good to us.

MarciaBe: How did LiveText compare to Johns Hopkins U?

JosephU: that's good to hear. I've talked to them at conferences but didn't know of anyone with first-hand experience

MarciaBe: Is the Johns Hopkins U pretty expensive?

JosephU: yes--that's the sad part.

MarciaBe: I think LiveText was about \$69 per student for 4-5 years.

JosephU: it's \$39k if you host it yourself--that's a one-time perpetual license, includes all updates and installation and training.

JosephU: unlimited students

JosephU: but they are also contracting with one of the publishers to license it for a per-student rate

JosephU: that will be more affordable, I think

MarciaBe: That would be a hard sell to our president. I think he would go for per student to pass on to them.

JosephU: I guess it depends on institutional priorities (and resources!)

JosephU: at my old job, they were already collecting \$75 per student per semester

JosephU: as a tech fee

JosephU: so that easily covered it.

MarciaBe: It seems like there often times more priorities than resources. Thank you for your help and resources which I will be checking out more in depth.

JosephU: no problem. come back next month...maybe we'll have a bigger crowd!

MarciaBe: Sounds good and I appreciate your insights. Good luck in your pursuit of the perfect portfolio! :-)

JosephU: thanks!

MarciaBe: Man. I wish my fingers would spell better :-)

JosephU: ...laughs

MarciaBe: Bye.

JosephU: have a good night, ladies

MarciaBe: U2

BJB2 waves goodnight. Thanks, Joseph