Title of Session: e-Portfolios
Moderator: Joseph Ugoretz
Title of File: 20071018eportfolios
Date: October 18, 2007

Room: e-Portfolio Group

BJB2: Welcome to this month's ePortfolios discussion, everyone!

JosephU: hello, everyone! Should we start with introductions?

ElifG: I do not know what to do

JosephU smiles

ElifG: this is my assignment

BJB2: please tell Joseph, the leader of the discussion where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach

BJB2: I teach remedial communication in Pennsylvania

CarolineMe: I am Caroline Meeks, I live in Massachusetts and I work in supporting open source software for education

BJB2: glad you could join us, Caroline

BJB2: Maria? Elif?

JosephU: I'm Joe Ugoretz--I'm Director of Technology and Learning for Macaulay Honors College at the City University of New York

ElifG: I am Elif Gülay, the student of English language teaching at abant izzet baysal university, In Turkey

BJB2: ahhh...one of Sedat's students. Great to see you here, Elif

ElifG: I am taking Call class this semester

ElifG: thank you bjb

CarolineMe: I'm taking a class at Harvard GSE this semester, we learned about tapped in last week :)

JosephU: Jeff and Maria, would you like to introduce yourselves before we get rolling?

BJB2 nods to Caroline...talked to several of your colleagues on Tuesday

JosephU: Caroline--you support open source software...do you have specific eportfolio ideas? Or questions?

CarolineMe: One of my clients is using ELGG

CarolineMe: we are working to integrate it with Moodle

JosephU: That's great--is this higher ed or k-12?

CarolineMe: I've also used dotFolio which is based on the .LRN/OpenACS platform

CarolineMe: K-12

CarolineMe: a high school level 21 century skills program

CarolineMe: it's the CT center for 21st century skills

JosephU: hmm...Does the school have good IT support? (inside or outside classroom?) (I would imagine so, with that name!

CarolineMe: it's a nonprofit org that works with a number of schools in CT

JosephU: ah--looking at the website now.

JosephU: I am familiar with elgg and moodle, but not so much with dotfolio

LynneW joined the room.

JosephU: would you like to tell us more about it? (or does anyone have a specific topic or question?)

CarolineMe: what tools are other K-12 using?

BJB2 waves hi to Lynne

JosephU waves hi to Lynne

LynneW waves hello

ElifG smiles

ElifG: hi Lyne!

LynneW: Hello. Sorry to drop in late.

JosephU: so--I'm not sure we have other k12 folks here tonight

LynneW wonders what the question or discussion is at the moment

JosephU: well, we haven't really gotten much going tonight, Lynne.

ElifG frowns

JosephU: Caroline has been working with elgg and moodle, and dotfolio,

JosephU: but is wondering

JosephU: what other k12 folks are using

LynneW: In our area it varies widely.

ElifG: this is my first experience, i understand nothing

ElifG: what we are talking about

JosephU: let me put a question/thought out there

JosephU: background first

LynneW: Some have proprietary software for privacy concerns. Some use off the shelf. Some use MS office applications and save to a district drive.

JosephU: we have a program for very advanced college students--they all enter as freshmen, and they enroll on one of seven students--

JosephU: They work on bachelor's degrees in all kinds of subjects

JosephU: (all different majors)

JosephU: because they are on seven campuses, one challenge is providing a central community/identity

CarolineMe: What university?

JosephU: This is the City University of New York

CarolineMe: is it a commercial system or did you build it?

JosephU: Ah, we don't have it yet!

JosephU: I get to start from scratch

JosephU: Macaulay Honors College is only 6 years old

CarolineMe: ah, cool have you decided how you are going to proceed?

JosephU: well, I've been through the process once before, at my previous job

JosephU: now I'm here, and we have no eportfolio system at all--but really want one

JosephU: at my previous job the eport. solution was for the teacher ed program

JosephU: and we licensed Johns Hopkins University's eportfolio system

JosephU: A good one...but not appropriate in this context, now.

JosephU: Am very interested in open source at this point...

JosephU: colleagues and friends at another campus (LaGuardia Community College) have just joined Sakai

CarolineMe: the main LMS is blackboard?

JosephU: Yes--

JosephU: Blackboard is the enterprise LMS

JosephU: but the way it's set up is campus-centric.

JosephU: nothing cross-campus

JosephU: (And I don't much like the Bboard eport. building block, anyway)

CarolineMe: no, most people don't

CarolineMe: dotFolio was created at the university of Sydney

JosephU: I'm interested in about three main criteria...

JosephU: Primary...Reflection must be central--

JosephU: Secondary...lots of variety in media types, and information types (tie in with database, resume building, student records)

JosephU: Tertiary...good balance between templates and room for creativity in

presentations

JosephU: (These students are among the best college students academically in the country...and they have good technology skills and good technology support)

JosephU: (Every one of them gets a free MacBook)

CarolineMe: you've looked at OSPI that is the one that is in the Sakai family

JosephU: Yep.. That's a good candidate, I think...

CarolineMe: I wasn't thrilled with the UI when I saw it last

JosephU: Right

JosephU: I think I would need strong programming support to really make it work for us

JosephU: and I don't have that kind of staff at this point

LynneW: What are your requirements for public vs. private portfolios? Who is the audience for them? Will you host them beyond the semester or graduation?

CarolineMe: the problem with the whole Sakai is that it's a java freight train that is unwieldy to change or make friendly

JosephU: exactly, Caroline!

JosephU: Lynne, we need both public and private

JosephU: (depending on content and audience)

CarolineMe: the PHP systems like ELGG are at the other end, easy to set up, but very simple

JosephU: variety of audiences--students for reflection, teachers, funders, and potential employers/graduate schools

LynneW: Joseph do you have any money to pay for a little tweaking of an open source product that is Drupal based?

CarolineMe: The .LRN family is in the middle, built for customizability, but not nearly as easy or featureful out of the box.

JosephU: we have money...that's not much of a problem

JosephU: Drupal-based is a definite possibility

LynneW: You might want to email Bill Fitzgerald at OpenAcademic.org

JosephU: Great, Lynne--do you know him? Seen good things?

LynneW: There are a couple of universities in Australia and a few in US using OpenAcademic

CarolineMe: it's kind of frightening how much money is spent on the sakai family and it still is very hard to use.

LynneW: Yes

CarolineMe: yes, definitely look to Australia and NZ

JosephU: that is so true, Caroline--it's a bit utopian...and I don't want to wait for Sakai to be ready

JosephU: I want to pilot something this year!

LynneW: It is ready to pilot - I've been using it since September

LynneW: Let me get his email for you.

JosephU: how is it going for you since September? Can show anything yet?

LynneW: bill@openacademic.org

LynneW: Problems but they are all control issues with our university IT folks.

LynneW: I use instructional blogging with all of my education courses.

LynneW: Students all create and maintain their own blogs.

LynneW: I wanted to use OA because it has an e-portfolio feature and is a great blend of

LynneW: CMS, blog, wiki, learning community

JosephU: You use OA for blogging? We generally use WordPress

LynneW: What I didn't like is it is very lack-luster in visual appeal.

JosephU: that is a drawback--

LynneW: My IT folks have refused to host blogging. I use blog-city.

JosephU: Oh, Lynne, I feel for you

LynneW: At any rate, the blogging portion is totally integrated with the wiki and the e-portfolios.

JosephU: IT folks who refuse to support teaching and learning should be sent to re-education camps!

LynneW: Very seamless and connected to all who participate.

JosephU: I will have to take a closer look--that sounds good.

LynneW: You can enroll multiple courses (campuses perhaps) and the admin control is extensive.

CarolineMe: Joseph, let me know what you think I'll check it out too

CarolineMe: is it open source?

JosephU: Here I am the boss of IT...so they have to do what I want! (right now, there is no "they" only me!)

LynneW: Ours was set-up as private but everyone had a checkbox to make any link or entry public.

JosephU: So I have to do what i want

LynneW: Nice feature for tweaking a portfolio to address multiple audiences

LynneW grimaces with sheer envy

LynneW: Bill is fast, responsive and efficient to work with.

JosephU: Lynne, thanks so much. I will contact Bill and check it out.

LynneW: Former teacher, created this product and does tweaking for specific users

LynneW: His for profit company is Funny Monkey

JosephU: sounds good...

LynneW: I would be interested to follow your decisions - will be informative to many of us

JosephU: I am also going to Educause next week...expect to talk to many of the big-time expensive vendors there.

LynneW: I haven't kept up with their products. Maybe you would consider giving a report on findings at the next session of this group?

JosephU: sure--I will report back in November! (BJ, does November session have holiday schedule problems?)

CarolineMe: that would be great Joseph

JosephU: Gives me an excuse to summarize and digest my thinking along the way, too!

BJB2: you'll be on the 15th, Joseph...should be ok

CarolineMe: I can't make the 15th, can I get a log?

BJB2: Yes, Caroline. I'm sure Joseph would be happy to send you a transcript ;-)

LynneW: I'll look forward to it!

CarolineMe: Thank you!

CarolineMe: my kid wants to go to a nanotech seminar

LynneW: May I make a shameless commercial for my TI session this afternoon?

CarolineMe: it's evening here already :)

LynneW: Web 2.0 Tools for Schools 5:00 pm PST

CarolineMe: cool so that is in a bit over an hour?

LynneW: Two guest speakers - Jane Krauss and Suzie Boss

JosephU: Caroline, email me after the 15th to remind me!

CarolineMe: what is your email?

LynneW: PBL using Web 2.0 Tools

JosephU: jugoretz@honorscollege.cuny.edu

LynneW: Based on a new ISTE publication coming out in November

LynneW: It was so popular, they are doing Part Two this evening.

CarolineMe: cool!!!

JosephU: Great, Lynne--sorry I can't make it!

LynneW smiles

LynneW: Well, I'm going to scoot. This was an interesting conversation. I look forward to next month.

BJB2 will be there

LynneW waves bye to all

JosephU: Good night, Lynne

CarolineMe: thanks everyone!

JosephU: and thanks, all

JosephU: see you next month!

ElifG: see you:)

BJB2: thanks, Joseph, for leading the discussion

BJB2: good luck in your classes, Elif

BJB2: Thanks for your contributions to the discussion, Caroline

JosephU bows, smiles, and exits

ElifG: thanks BJB