Title of Session: ePortfolios
Moderator: Joseph Ugoretz
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Room: ePortfolio Group

JosephU: Hi Janet

JanetMa: Hi Joseph

JosephU: I'm sorry to say I don't remember if you were here last month?

JanetMa: I wasn't

JosephU: Well, welcome!

JosephU smiles

JanetMa: this is my first Tapped In discussion

JanetMa: thank you

JosephU: Great. Are you already an eportfolio user, or just exploring, or ?

BjB: Janet, a reminder to go to the Actions menu in the top right of your chat window and click on DETACH

BjB . o O (that will make it easier to follow the discussion)

BjB: Joe, would you like to start with introductions?

JosephU: Sure!

BjB . o O (where you are located and what brings you to the discussion)

BjB: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and am interested in authentic documentation of student progress.

JosephU: I'm Joe Ugoretz. I'm director of teaching and learning with technology and professor of English at a large community college in New York City. We're currently beginning an eportfolio project for our

JanetMa: I"m an educational technologist and the college I work for is looking for an eportfolio solution

JosephU: teacher education program (then migrating throughout the school).

JanetMa: I'm at SUNY Fredonia in Western NY

JosephU: So, Janet, it sounds like we're in a similar place

JosephU: regionally and experientially!

JanetMa: great

JosephU: (my wife tells me the next SUNY CIT will be at Fredonia!) --she's a SUNY-ite, too.

JanetMa: yep- I'm right in the middle of that!

JanetMa: they put out the call for papers today

JosephU: What eportfolio criteria are you working with? I mean, what kind of system do you want to look for?

JosephU: And are you looking at OSPI?

JanetMa: is OSPI the open source one?

JosephU: yes--part of sakai

RongX joined the room.

JanetMa: ok- yes, that's the one the folks in IT are looking at

JosephU: Hi Rong

RongX: Hi

JosephU: Can you do a quick self-intro?

JanetMa: I scheduled an Angel demo for next week - we have a rep coming to Fredonia to show us that

JosephU: Ah! Angel!

JosephU: What do you think of OSPI? My impression is that it's not really ready for primetime, not this year.

BjB waits to hear about the Angel

JanetMa: that's my whole impression of Sakai

RongX: I am in GA. I want to learn about e_portfolios

JosephU: Here's the Angel link

JosephU: http://www.angellearning.com/products/eportfolio/default.html

JosephU: Rong, do you need basic info, or more advanced, have you any eport experience so far?

JanetMa: we're probably moving from Bb to Angel, so it makes sense to check out Angel's e-portfolio offering

JosephU: We're (CUNY) stuck with Bb, I think forever.

JosephU :-(

RongX: Not yet. Basic info is ok.

JosephU: But even though CUNY as a system is stuck with BB as a CMS, I don't think I want my campus to stick with it for eport.

JosephU: But I'm going to be looking at Angel carefully.

JanetMa: Bb has been very disappointing

JosephU: Oh, don't get me started. And now since the WebCT merge, it will become a real Microsoft-style monster, I think.

JanetMa: right-on

JosephU: But I know some of your SLN people are more optimistic than I am.

JanetMa: that announcement did wonders for my suggestion to move to Angel

JanetMa: SLN is working on their own mix of moodle, sakai and an LMS from Australia

JosephU: Janet, are you the MID at Fredonia?

AliB joined the room.

JosephU: Hello, Ali!

JanetMa: not the MID, SLN has asked me to be trained for that, but there's not enough hi-level support for us to have our own MID right now- lots of new administrators and lots of suspicions about distance learning

BjB . o O (lots of acronyms...can you explain to the other participants, please?)

JosephU: My wife (sitting here in the room) is the MID at FIT, and says hello!

JosephU: oops, sorry, about the acronyms

JanetMa: Joseph, what is your timeframe for the eportfolio decision and what products are you looking into?

JosephU: MID=Multimedia Instructional Designer

JosephU: FIT=

BjB: Ali, can you introduce yourself to the group, please?

JanetMa: Hello FIT MID!

JosephU: Fashion Institute of Technology

JosephU: SUNY-State University of New York

JanetMa: SLN= SUNY Leaning Network

JosephU: SLN = SUNY Learning Network.

BjB: thanks!

JosephU: Our timeframe is rapid--I want to make a decision this semester, test and train in the spring, and roll out (at least on a pilot basis) in the fall of 2006

JosephU: I even have a budget (sufficient, I think) but it has to be spent by June 30

JanetMa: Sounds like our timeframe for Angel!

JosephU: I don't mean to keep blabbling...Ali, Rong, please jump in anytime

AliB: Hi Joseph, Hi, Bj

JanetMa: Joseph, which products are you interested in?

JosephU: We need an eport system which is very user-friendly...many of our students have low computer (and other) skills.

JosephU: We also need to be able to encourage reflection and comment from outsiders, but still have some parts private.

JosephU: I'm mostly interested in local hosting, not outsourcing the hosting.

AliB: Ali Here. ESOL teacher from Morocco

JosephU: It also has to be very "portable"--our students tend to transfer in and out a lot.

JosephU: Welcome, Ali!

JosephU: So with all that said, I've been looking hard at Johns Hopkins EP--which they license out

JosephU: I wish Sakai were ready, but I don't think so.

JosephU: Haven't looked at Angel as much as I should

JosephU: so I'll be interested to hear your impressions when you come back next month, Janet.

JosephU: Hint.

JanetMa: Angel's eport is an add-on (I think)

JanetMa: but I'll find out

JosephU: last month one of the folks here steered me to

JosephU: http://eportfolio.org

JosephU: (you would think I would have found that URL right away!)

JosephU: It looks interesting, but it is centrally hosted.

JosephU: I was not thinking in those terms, but it does have advantages.

JosephU: Has anyone looked at other solutions?

JeffC joined the room.

BjB waves hi to Jeff

DavidWe joined the room.

BjB: can you clarify what the purpose of an ePortfolio is please, Joe?

BjB: Hi, David

DavidWe waves

DavidWe . o O (sorry for being late)

JosephU: Hi David!

DavidWe: Hi, Joseph

JosephU: Sorry for the delay, BJ. Distracted by a crying baby

JosephU: The purpose of an eportfolio

JosephU: multiple purposes....

JosephU: Reflection and meta-writing: Students can collect their work, and in so doing, think about their progress and make statements about what they've learned

JosephU: Assessment: Instructors can have multiple measures, getting a more complete picture of students' learning and achievement

JosephU: either in a course, or a program, or through an even longer period.

BjB: what about as a presentation for a job?

JanetMa: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EPortfolio

JosephU: Job/Career Placement and development: Students can have a resource to demonstrate their skills and abilities to future employers (or graduate schools).

JosephU: heh-you asked as I was typing the answer!

BjB . o O (that answers that!)

JosephU: also, institutional assessment:

BjB: and what is the advantage to using a web portal?

JosephU: accrediting bodies, trustees, or higher level administrators can demonstrate learning goals being achieved.

JosephU: also, faculty development--the teaching portfolio is another kind of resource.

JosephU: Ah--using the web

BjB . o O (instead of a paper trail you're creating a digital trail?)

JosephU: makes it possible to have many different "views" easily and quickly, and to password protect, and to invite comments and incorporate them

JosephU: and also to include multimedia!

JosephU: Yes--with the advantages (and disadvantages) that digital has over paper.

JosephU: Should say something about disadvantages?

BjB: yes, please

DavidWe smiles

JanetMa: our College of Education hopes to incorporate eportfolios into their NCATE assessment plan - down the road

DavidWe: Only if there are disadvantages

JosephU: Disadvantages: The web can be hard to access--servers go down, or are unreachable. Things that are digital can go "poof" if someone makes a mistake, or even if the gods just happen to frown.

JosephU: Also, learning curve.

JosephU: some students (or viewers or responders) may be intimidated by the interface

JosephU: good interface design can help to ease that

JosephU: Storage--how long will institution commit to keeping a student's portfolio?

BjB: thanks, Joe.

DavidWe . o O (back stuff up - Rule #6)

DavidWe: A little more practice, Ali, and you'll be more comfortable

JosephU: Oh yes! Back up!

DavidWe nods

JeffC : the biggest disadvantage to eportfolios is getting educators to change their routine... and buy into them. I totally believe in them... but what with NCLB and

teaching to the test... how does one get the status quo to shift to a new and improved style of assessment, focusing on rubrics, portfolios, etc.?

JosephU: That's a really good question, Jeff.

JosephU: (and hello!)

JosephU: I'm lucky, in a way, being at the Community College level, and at a school where we've already got that buy-in to a large extent in many of our programs.

JosephU: We're planning to start with out Teacher Ed department, and the chair there is a major supporter (as she well should be!)

BjB: I hope you are aware of the mini conference for preservice teachers and teacher ed faculty, Joseph and Janet

DavidWe: Things are much more flexible at community colleges

JosephU: I wonder if it's possible, even with the NCLB and testing stuff, to get eports adopted as an addition, rather than a replacement (since the replacement may not be possible).

JanetMa: Interest here is being driven by Ed and Career Development

JosephU: That also makes sense, Janet.

JeffC : I say "replacement!" viva la revolucion!

JosephU: Que viva!

JosephU: (But in practical terms, unless we get a new administration in DC, I'm not optimistic)

JeffC : seriously... test scores and cume folders are meaningless... we need to be able to see a progression of a body of work from kindergarten to death.

JeffC : something to show your ancestors.

JeffC : uh descendents.

DavidWe wonders what Jeff's kids think of his public bookmarks

JosephU: (ancestors would be quite an achievement!)

JosephU looking for public bookmarks

JeffC : oh... they're *ecstatic* about them! (yawn)

DavidWe smiles

JeffC : my public bookmarks are at http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/coops (if anyone is interested).

JosephU heading right over

JosephU scrolling, and scrolling, and scrolling!

JosephU: Getting to be dinnertime here in Brooklyn. Thanks, everyone!

JeffC needs help updating them... that's another problem with eportfolios... keeping them updated and managing them. much easier to give a test and a grade and throw the test away!

JeffC : Thanks Joseph

JosephU: Bye everyone!

JanetMa: bye, thank you

JosephU: feel free to continue discussion in the group discussion board.

JosephU: and see you next month!

BjB: thanks, Joe