Understanding the essence(s) of portfolio-based learning

A collaborative international seminar
The University of Edinburgh, 6-8 June 2016.

Hosted by the University of Edinburgh, and facilitated by AAEEBL (the Association for Authentic, Experiential and Experience-Based Learning) and the CRA, this international seminar will provide opportunities for:

- The sharing of innovative and evidence-informed practice.
- The further development of a broadly-based international network to support and advance eportfolio implementation.
- The development of a shared agenda for practitioner-centred action research.

Key Seminar themes will be:

E-portfolios supporting **student learning and assessment**, in the contexts of:

- The provision of effective scaffolding - integrating portfolios into thoughtful learning designs;
- Documenting learning outcomes/achievements for assessment and other purposes;
- Integrating learning and assessment across <u>contexts</u> (placements, learning outside the curriculum, further professional/lifelong learning) and <u>disciplines</u>, opening the way for more comprehensive and coordinated approaches to practice;
- Learning using authentic experiences and reflection;
- Self-learning - the integrative aspect of ePortfolio -- the ability to help students connect their learning to the process of identity development.

E-portfolios supporting **effective student transitions** in, through and out of HE, building student engagement, leading to increased persistence, more timely degree completion, and closing 'the attainment gap';

E-portfolios supporting **Tutoring and Advising practice,** in line with the Personal Development Planning model developed in the UK and/or the Academic Advising model in the US.

E-portfolios supporting **student employability** in the contexts of:

- Helping students develop, record and reflect on the capabilities they need to be successful learners and employees – such as critical thinking, problem solving, and integrative and applied learning;
- The incorporation of reflective practice – 'stopping and thinking' - to help students articulate their learning more clearly, and relate this to appropriate evidence;

Connecting to newly emerging practice and issues, such as:

- Linking ePortfolio to sophisticated learning analytics, helping students (and tutors) examine, reflect on and understand their learning in new ways;
- Using digital badges to supplement and strengthen ePortfolio practice, particularly in respect of co-curricular learning;
- Establishing the "fit" between the reflective, developmental ePortfolio that seeks to support student development and the showcase ePortfolio that employers <u>may</u> like to see – or the effective use of eportfolio evidence in employers' own selection systems.
- Effective strategies for scaling up eportfolio use from successful implementation within a programme or Faculty to institution-wide use;

- Whether and how eportfolios can be used to demonstrate the quality of education provided by institutions.

The event will provide a blended format, a purposeful mix of whole event working within a colloquium setting and conventional workshops and seminars grouped bythemes. Taken together, over the three days, participants will be supported and enabledto extend their views of effective e-portfolio practice. And we have discounted accommodation in the city available to participants.

Day 1 'Altogether now', 10.30-17.30 the Playfair Library, Old College[1]
A colloquium format allowing participants to appreciate leading edge thinking, enlarge their own understandings, and contribute to the understandings of others on key questions including:
- the drivers and contexts for portfolio use across the globe;
- the problems and challenges that e-portfolios seek to address;
- the benefits that are claimed for portfolio based/supported learning, and the evidence we
- can bring forward for these;
- our shared understanding now.

Day 2 'Go your own way' Multiple parallel sessions on seminar themes with participants choosing sessions to attend. 09.00 – 18.00, 50 George Square.
A day of:
- Workshops: exploring the uses, functionality, and/or best practices of e-portfolios.
- Research: in which e-portfolio methods, tools, and characteristics are assessed and evaluated. These sessions will provide an excellent opportunity to share research and receive feedback.
- Roundtable Discussions/Symposia: allowing for more extended and focused discussions on a particular topic.
- Ignite Sessions: thought-provoking, image-intense expositions, intended to produce energy, spark ideas, and inspire dialogue.

Concluding with a Seminar Reception and Dinner at the National Gallery of Scotland.

Day 3 09.30-16.00 'Together again' The Playfair Library, Old College.
Working together on:
- Connecting employability, digital badges and portfolios.
- Measuring the maturity of e-portfolio implementation.
- Consolidating our learning and considering how we might work collaboratively in the future -'Connecting, consolidating, committing'.

Confirmed contributors so far:
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[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_College,_University_of_Edinburgh