

# Student Perspectives of ePortfolios: Change over four semesters

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# Student experiences of an ePortfolio and the ways in which it helps or hinders them in their learning.

## Research Questions:

1. How do students experience an ePortfolio?

## Aim of this presentation:

- investigate changes over time as students use ePortfolios
- Consider the contextual factors which may impact student experience

## Methodology:

- Longitudinal study 2009-2011
- Questionnaire (Australian ePortfolio Project: Hallam, Harper, McGowan, Hauville, McAlister and Creagh, 2008) administered at end of each semester.
- Rolling sample

# Rolling Sample of ePortfolio users 2009-2010

268 Bachelor of Education (primary) students

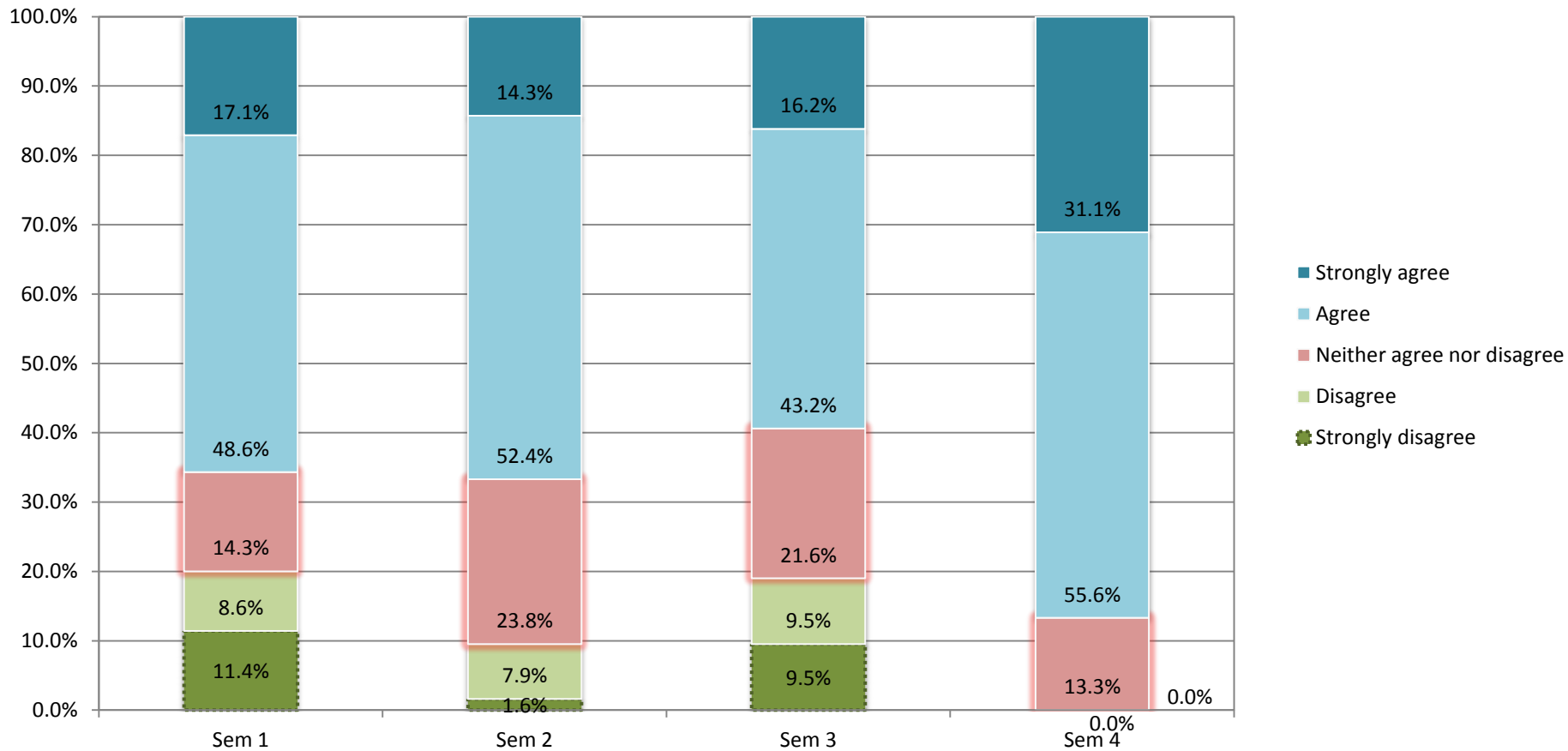
Data Collection	Student cohort	Number of participants	ePortfolio experience	Curriculum
Semester 1	Cohort 1	<b>35</b>	1 semester	Professional Inquiry and Practice (PIP)
Semester 2	Cohort 1	26	2 semesters	PIP
	Cohort 2	<b>38</b>	1 semester	
Semester 3	Cohort 1	26	3 semesters	PIP (not used) Technology
	Cohort 2	38	2 semesters	
	Cohort 3	<b>12</b>	1 semester	
Semester 4	Cohort 2	22	3 semesters	PIP Technology
	Cohort 3	12	2 semesters	
	Cohort 4	<b>50</b>	1 semester	

# Contextual background which may have impacted participant responses?

Sem	Technology	Student use	Student attitudes	Staff	Student preparation
Sem 1	Technical difficulties with Mahara	Some used email to submit work	Cohort 1 =Y2 students mid-way in degree – resistant to concept	First time users	Demonstration Paper handout
Sem 2	Technical difficulties continued	Majority use	Resistant	Little PD	Online Mahara support
Sem 3	New version of Mahara easier to use	Little use by cohort 1 & 2	Some softening	Staff PD Personal ePortfolio	Workshop
Sem 4	No technical difficulties	Wide use by all	Positive	Role modeling	Student tutors Exemplars

**Question 13: Listed below are some of the possible outcomes of ePortfolio use. To what extent has the ePortfolio helped you with your current papers?**

**1) It has provided a place to store examples of coursework**

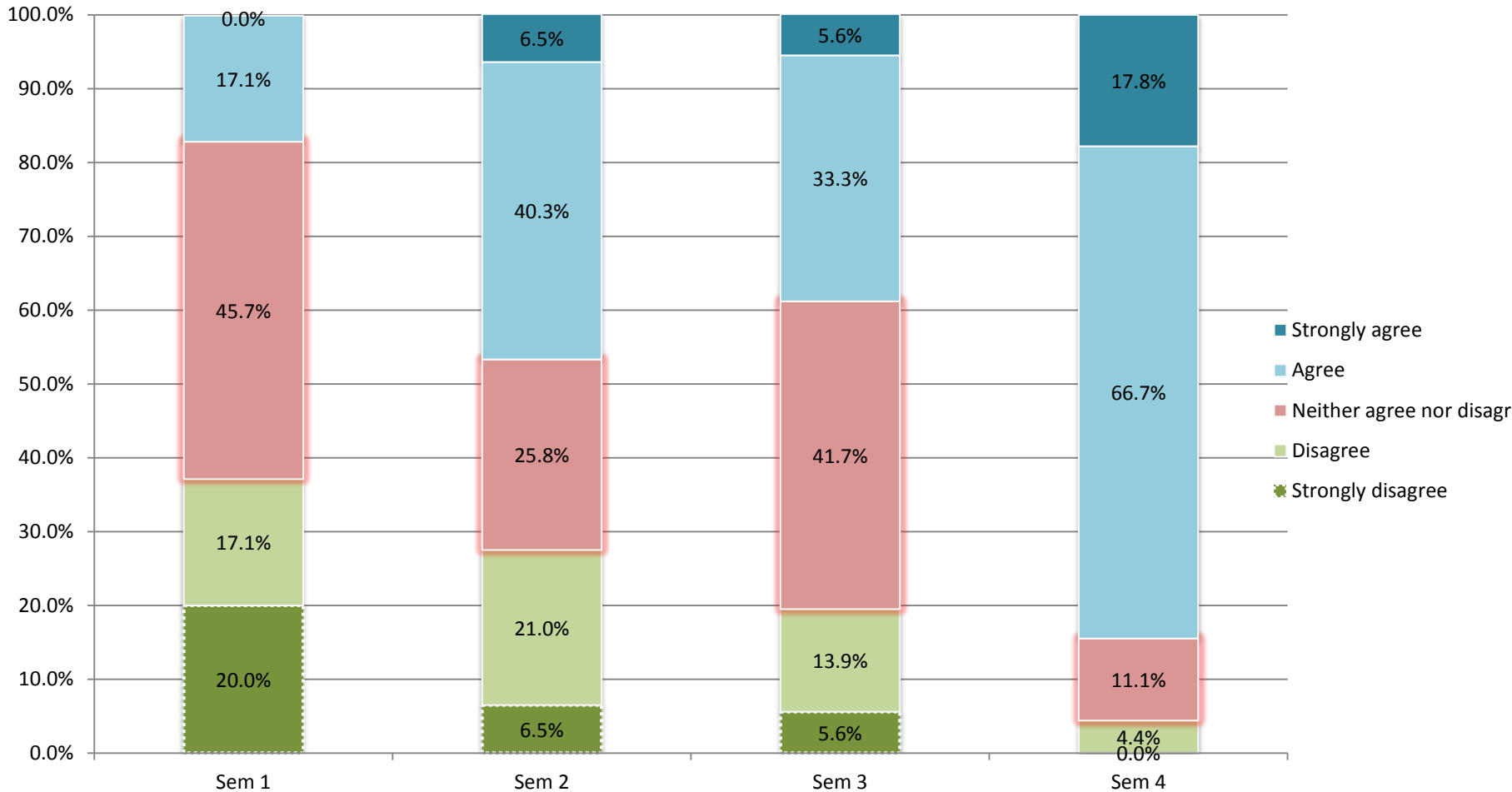


## It has provided a place to store examples of coursework Responses by cohort (%)

	Cohort	Agree/strongly agree	Neutral	Disagree/strongly disagree
Semester 1	1	63%	14%	20%
Semester 2	1	71%	20%	8%
	2	62%	28%	10%
Semester 3	1	77%	0%	23%
	2	47%	32%	20%
	3	58%	36%	6%
Semester 4	2	97%	3%	0
	3	86%	14%	0
	4	78%	22%	0

**Question 13: Listed below are some of the possible outcomes of eportfolio use. To what extent has the ePortfolio helped you with your current papers?**

**2) It has allowed me to evaluate and reflect on my learning processes**

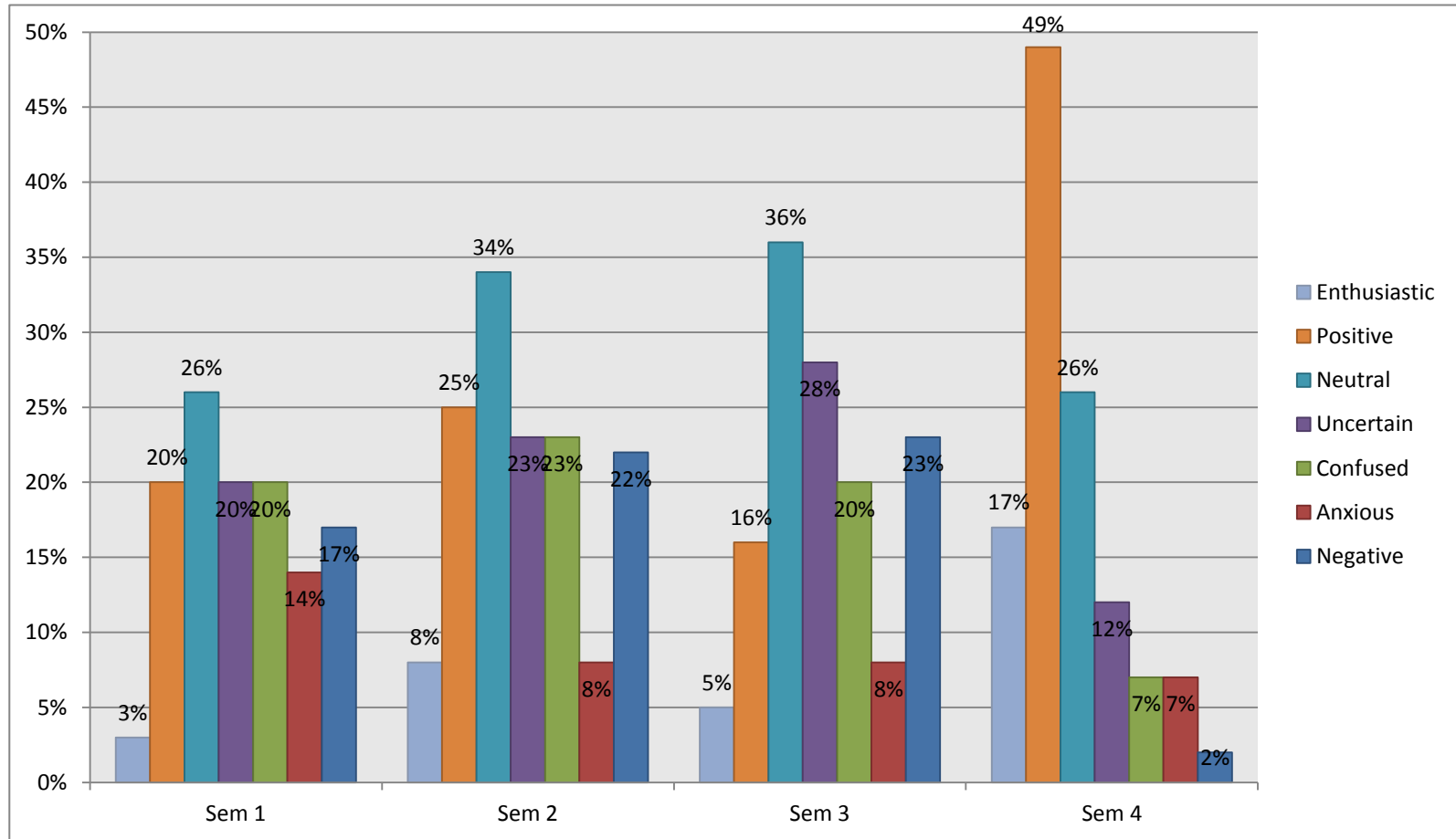


## Has allowed me to evaluate and reflect on my learning processes

	Cohort	Agree/strongly agree	Neutral	Disagree/strongly disagree
Semester 1	1	17%	45%	36%
Semester 2	1	41%	26%	32%
	2	53%	25%	21%
Semester 3	1	48%	28%	24%
	2	24%	51%	24%
	3	57%	43%	0%
Semester 4	2	100%	0	0
	3	50%	35%	14%
	4	83%	12%	4%



## Question 8: How do you feel about using an ePortfolio in this course so far?



# Adaptation to new technologies: Brown's Time Triangles

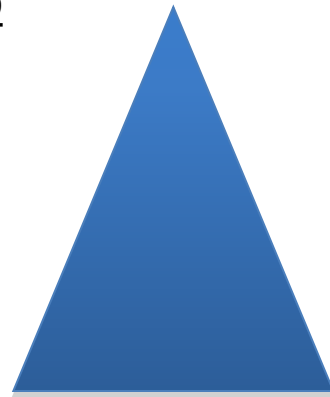
## Focus on ePortfolio dimensions

Learning

Assessment

Presentation

Storage



**New Students**  
(novice users)

## Focus of time

Community-building

Course content

Pedagogy

Technology



**Veteran Students**  
(experienced users)

(after Brown, 2001)

# Next Steps

## **Quantitative Project**

- Analysis of data collected in semesters 5 & 6

## **Qualitative Project**

- Student perspectives of learning through ePortfolio
- 3 cohorts of BEd (primary) student group each with different periods of use
- 6 Focus groups and 6 individual interviews

## **Impact on community**

- Curriculum development to embed ePortfolios in papers (5 in 2011; 9 in 2012)
- Other programmes in the School of Education
- Professional Development forums
- Publication and presentations

# References

- Brown, R. (2001). The process of community-building in distance learning classes. *Journal of Asynchronous Learning*, 5(2), 18- 35.
- Hallam, G., Harper, W., McGowan, C., Hauville, K., McAlister, L., & Creagh, T. (2008). *Australian ePortfolio Project. Final Project Report*. Queensland, Australia.