



How can e-portfolios support 21st century learning?

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Half day. Maximum participants 25. Intended audience: This workshop would be appropriate for anyone interested in e-portfolios, and those who use, or support others use of e-portfolios. The workshop caters for those at any level of knowledge or experience, from none at all, to those who have experience of working with e-portfolio tools within a particular context. Relevant staff groups may include teaching practitioners, staff developers, e-learning practitioners, those involved in initial teacher training, and those in the management and implementation of personal development planning, continuing professional development, and lifelong learning.

Objectives

e-Portfolios are not a new concept. In various guises, digital presentations of skills and competences, online records of achievement, and action plans with opportunities for reflection have been in use in education for nearly a decade. So what is new about e-portfolios?

This workshop will explore what we mean by e-portfolios and how e-portfolios can support 21st century learning. Drawing on the work of UK-based JISC-funded projects and other significant e-portfolio developments in the UK, it will provide a snapshot of learning enhanced by e-portfolios in higher, further and continuing education.

Activities

Putting e-portfolios in context, covering definitions, purposes of use, resources and the ways in which JISC-funded projects have using e-portfolios.

This session will include a mixture of presentations and small group exercises aimed at setting the scene and informing the audience of JISC's work in this area.

Guest presentation: experience of e-portfolio exploration from a projects perspective.

Effective e-portfolio implementation: learning from JISC – funded projects. Identifying the benefits and lessons emerging from project activity.

This session will include a mixture of presentations and activities to actively engaging participants to think about what successful e-portfolio implementation would look like, before presenting the learning from a two year evaluation and synthesis of JISC projects, and discussion around the implications for practice.

Facilitated issues discussion. Participants will be encouraged to think about the issues around e-portfolio implementation that have arisen throughout the day, including as appropriate issues such as learner and staff engagement, interoperability and portability. Relevant resources will be introduced and explored.

The workshop will complete with a round-up and summary of the day, and discussion of next steps in terms of JISC's e-portfolio work.

About the presenters

Lisa Gray is a Programme Manager within the e-Learning team at JISC. She is responsible for leading the teams e-portfolio activities, which recently culminated in the production of the new 'Effective Practice with e-Portfolios' publication, accompanying online resource (infoKit) launched in September 08, and series of workshops held throughout the UK in 2009. She also currently manages a programme of projects around the theme of 'Transforming Curriculum Delivery Through Technology'. Previous to working with JISC Lisa researched e-learning in the health sector, and managed a team delivering a part of the now-named 'Intute' JISC-funded service (<http://www.intute.ac.uk/>).

Gordon Joyes is Associate Professor in e-learning at the University of Nottingham, UK and holds the Lord Dearing Award for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. He is an experienced online course developer and online tutor. He is the e-portfolio expert consultant for the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) advising on policy and practice. His research interest is in the use of online tools for mediating learning and uses activity theory to underpin this work.

References

JISC (2008). Effective Practice with e-Portfolios.
<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/effectivepracticeportfolios>
JISC. e-Portfolios infoKit. <http://www.jiscinfonet.ac.uk/e-portfolios>