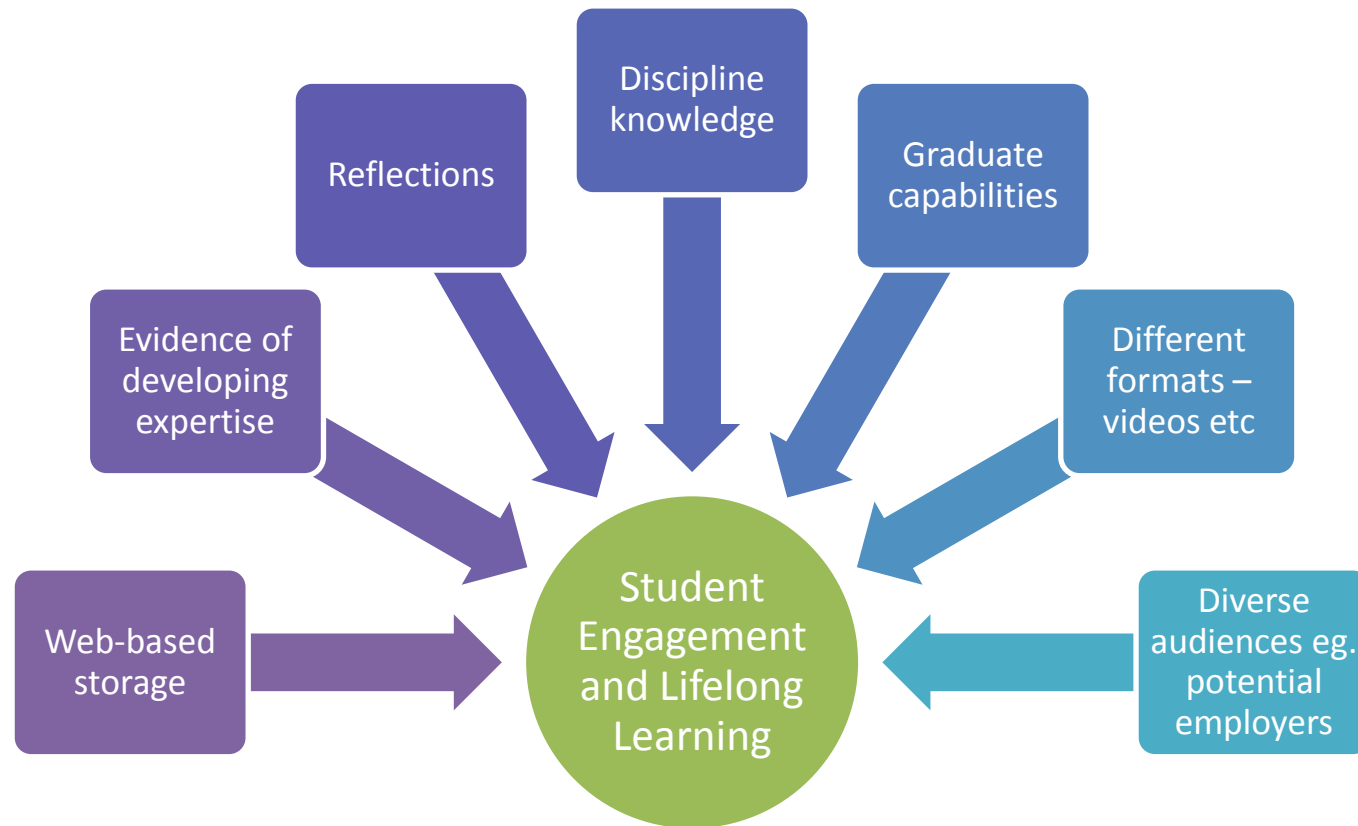


Evaluating e-Portfolios for University Learning Challenges and Opportunities

Margot McNeill
&
Andrew Cram



Why e-Portfolios?



However...

Implementing a new tool is complex and will not automatically lead to expected benefits of reducing staff workload and increasing student engagement ...

- A working party was set up to explore current and future needs for a centralised portfolio

MQ Drivers

Graduate
Capabilities
embedded into
programs

- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- creativity and
- effective communication

Sustainability
Policy

- encouraged lifelong learning
- work integrated learning

Participation unit
requirement for all
students

- work placements
- internships
- practicum



Common Assessment Challenges

- - Anderson et al 2001

Knowledge dimension	Cognitive process dimension					
	Remember	Understand	Apply	Analyze	Evaluate	Create
Factual						
Conceptual						
Procedural						
Meta-cog						

Which to Trial?



Open source eportfolios
[mah-hah-rah;verb]: to think, thinking, thought



Theoretical Frameworks

- Collis & Moonen (2001) 4 Es:
 - Environment
 - Personal Engagement
 - Ease of use
 - Educational Effectiveness
- Gosper et al (2007) CICTO
 - Teaching and Learning Context
 - Software Capability Analysis
 - Environmental Impact Analysis



Mixed Methods

Surveys and Interviews in Semester 2, 2010

- Internship
- First year COMP
- Capstone Education

✓ n=271



Usage Results

Items	Agree/ Strongly Agree
Very successful I managed to use the tool for the purposes of the unit	48.6% (51 /108)
Helped collating for submission	65.6% (61/ 93)
Helped reflection on learning	60% (56/ 93)
Helped integrate learning	48.4% (45/ 93) 1/3 (D-D/A)

Usability

Item	Results
Easy to use	36% A-S/A, 40% D-S/D
Adequate support	48% A-S/A
Hampered by technical issues	34.4% A-S/A

Overall Impact n=93

Items	Strongly agree/ Agree
Overall, the e-Portfolio tool was helpful for my learning	50.6% (47)
I consider it a useful experience learning how to use the e-Portfolio tool	46.2% (43)
I think the e-Portfolio tool will have other application	46.2% (42)

University's priorities n=93

Items	Strongly agree/ Agree
Is simple and user-friendly to use	53.9% (49)
Works well with the other Uni online learning tools	47.8% (44)
Can be used after I leave the Uni	40.3% (37)
Lets me upload a variety of file formats	70.7% (65)
Enables me to share my learning with my teachers	66.3% (61)
Enables me to share my learning with other students	71.8% (66)
Enables me to share my learning with others outside Uni , such as prospective employers	38% (35)

Conclusions

88% could use the system but didn't agree it helped scaffold reflection

Duplication was identified as a limitation for students

Reduced admin functionality was a limitation for staff

Self-Fulfilling Prophecy

EDUC capstone units saw benefit,

first year COMP students didn't – personal engagement was important

cultural change required to introduce portfolio-based learning across whole of program rather than a single unit approach!

MQ's e-Portfolio-based Learning

Like all successful curriculum innovations, e-portfolios need to be integrated into the learning and teaching process

Students need to understand the benefits

Shift toward an institutional culture of encouraging students to collect evidence of their learning journey

With greater student ownership of this collection, the implementation of one centralised tool may be less significant.