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Original Citation

McKinna, A. and Brooks, Ruth (2010) Learning Spaces for Enhancing Employability Skills using the Blackboard VLE. In: ASET Annual Conference 2010, 7-9 September 2010, University of Leicester. (Unpublished)

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Learning Spaces for Enhancing Employability Skills Using the Blackboard VLE

Alastair McKinna and Ruth Brooks,

Project Aim

- Improve employability skills amongst undergraduate students through a range of learning materials and an e-portfolio framework.

- Aimed at final year students

CBI(2009)

- Self Management
- Team Working
- Business and Customer Awareness
- Problem Solving
- Communication and Literacy
- Numeracy
- Application of Information Technology.

- Confederation of British Industry (2009) *What business wants from higher education* [online] available at:
- http://highereducation:cbi.org.uk/uploader/1_CBI_HE_taskforce%20report_What_business_wants_from_higher_education.pdf

QAA (2009:5)

- "A structured and supported process undertaken by an individual to reflect upon their own learning, performance and/or achievement and to plan for their personal, educational and career development."

- Quality Assurance Agency (2009) *Personal Development Planning: Guidance for Institutional Policy and Practice in Higher Education,* QAA, Gloucester.

Three Strands

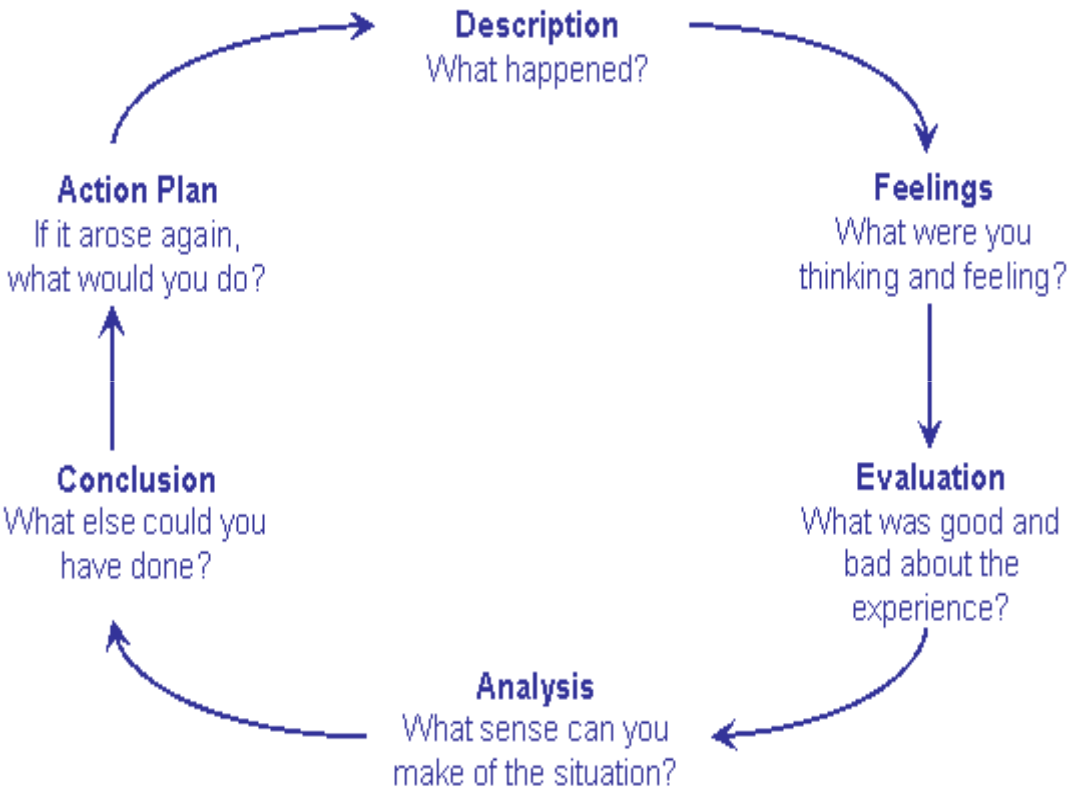
- Academic Development
- Personal Development
- Career Development

- Need to be integrated for a student to achieve their potential.

WORKBOOK

- Introduction
- About Me/ Self Awareness
- Personal Development Planning
- Learning Styles
- The Skills Agenda
- Brand Me!
- Career Management
- Sources of Information and Advice

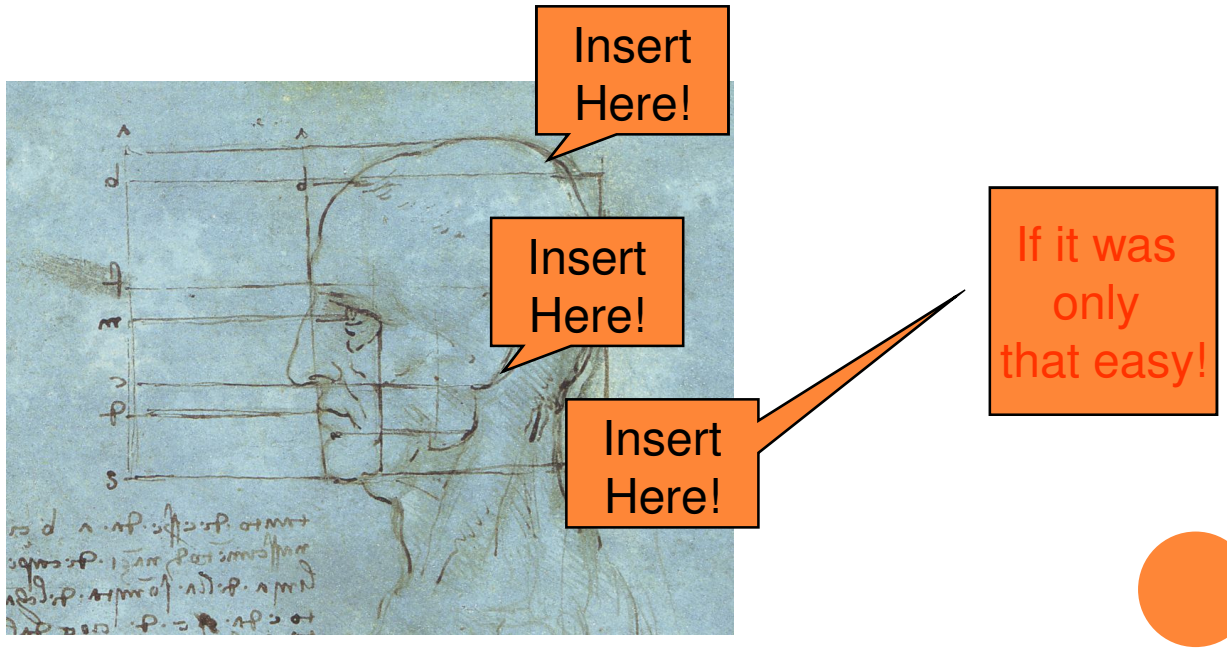
GIBBS (1988)



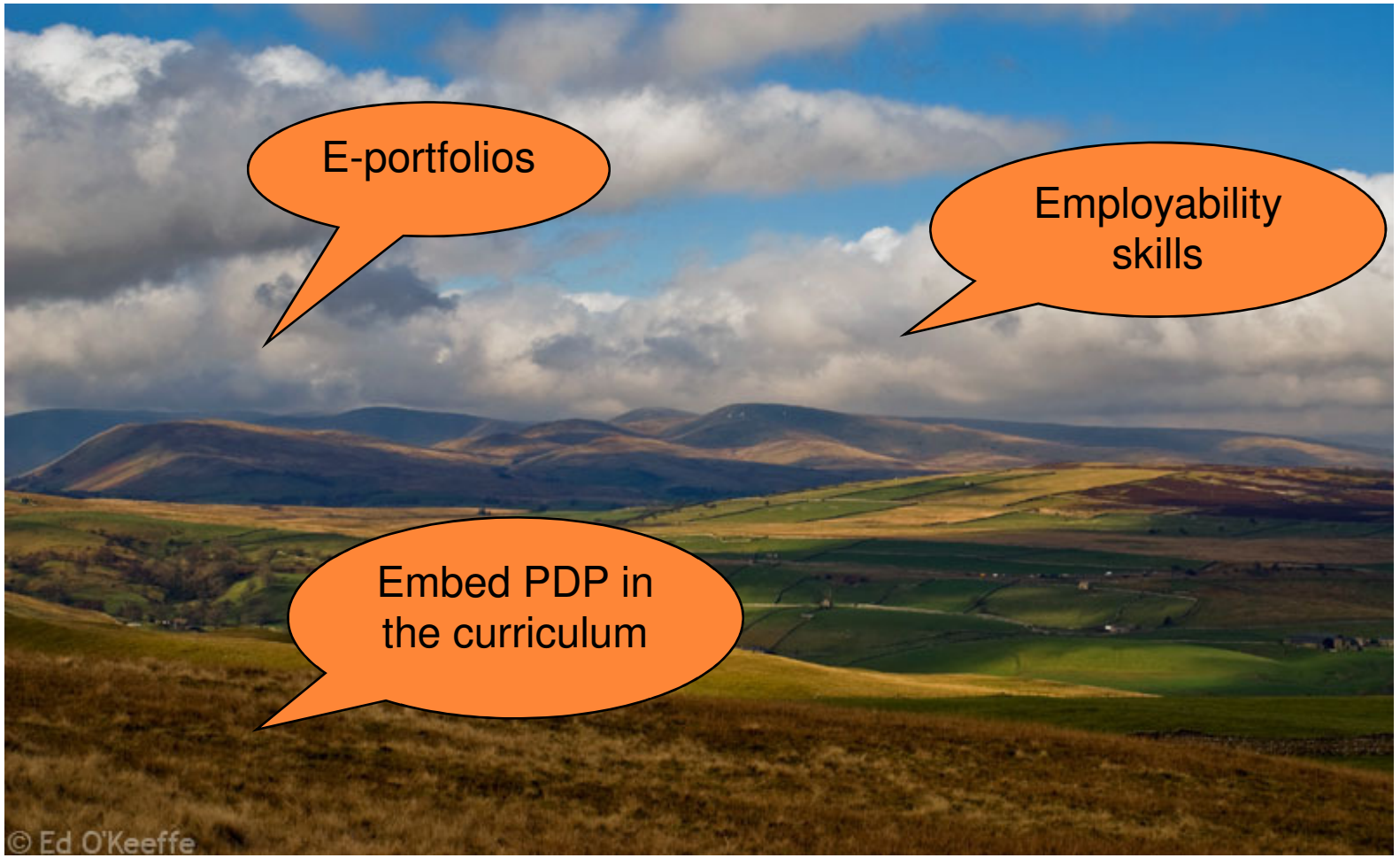
Gibbs, G. (1988) *Learning by Doing: A guide to teaching and learning methods*. Further Education Unit, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford.

Learning Spaces

- Empty vessels, space between the ears…
- Three things that matter most of all…PDP, PDP, and PDP



The Changing PDP Landscape



Project Deliverables

- Worked with final year students BABM
- Enhance employability skills
- Developed a work-book (paper-base)
- Developed an e-portfolio through Blackboard
- Emphasis that reflection happens naturally rather than a separate action

CAREERS SERVICE – An Integrated Approach

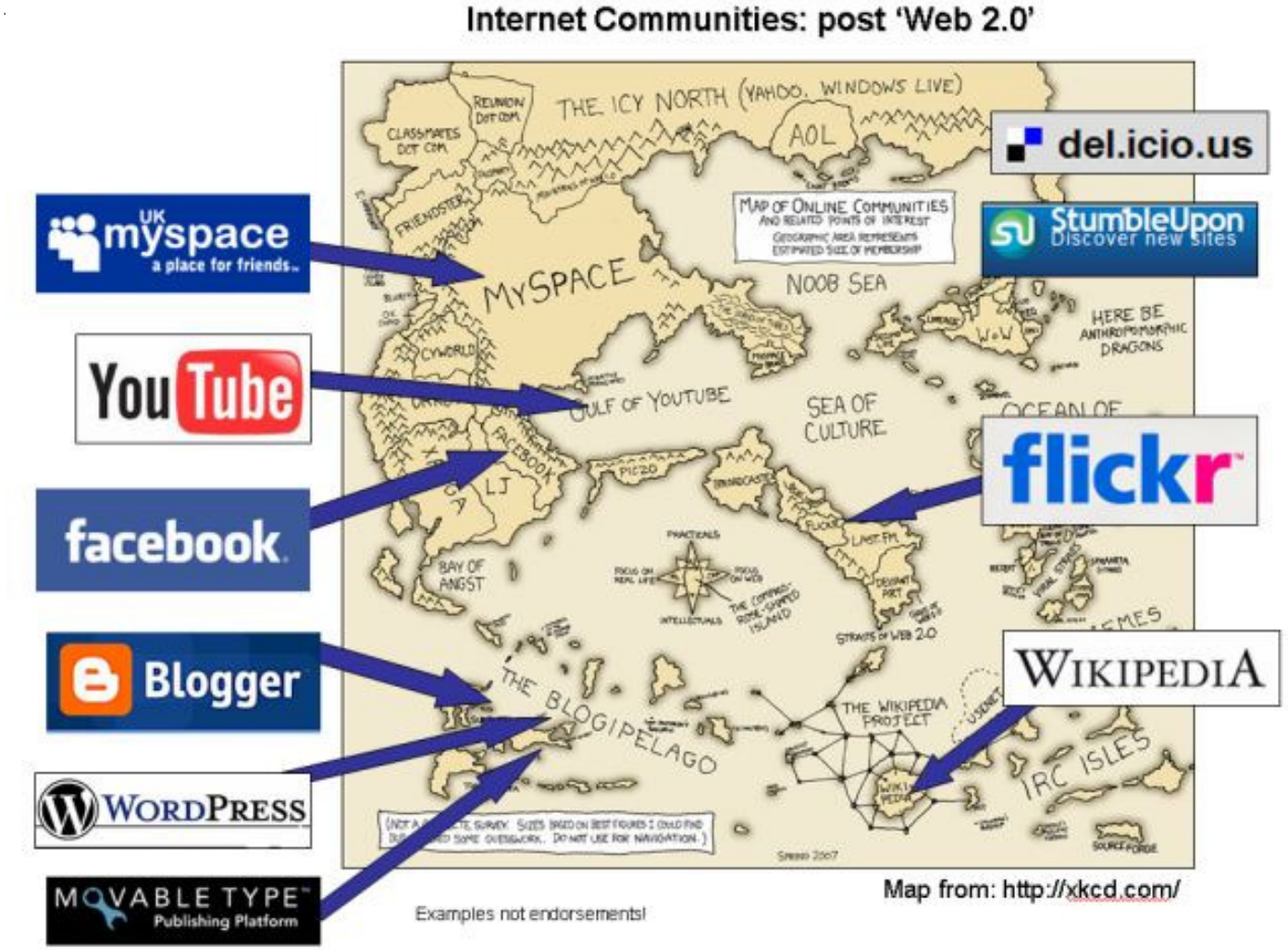
- In-class talk
- Psychometric Testing
- Increased use of individual careers appointments
- Integrated Blackboard site

Student Feedback

WEB 2.0 TOOLS IN PDP

- Recent learning theory has recognised the social nature of learning (Leslie & Landon 2008)
- The full potential of Web 2.0 has yet to be realised but benefits to date indicate the following:
- Student owns PDP but despite the increased independence of their learning tutor support is still needed.
- We need to recognise different categories of digital learners which will help us develop a typology

Exploring Possibilities?



DEL.ICIOUS AND SOCIAL BOOKMARKING

- **What is Delicious?**
- Delicious is a social bookmarking service that allows users to tag, save, manage and share web pages from a centralized source. With emphasis on the power of the community, Delicious greatly improves how people discover, remember and share on the Internet.
- Business students can use it to evidence their PDP as well as demonstrate their knowledge of websites most helpful to their career planning and employability

Social Bookmarking

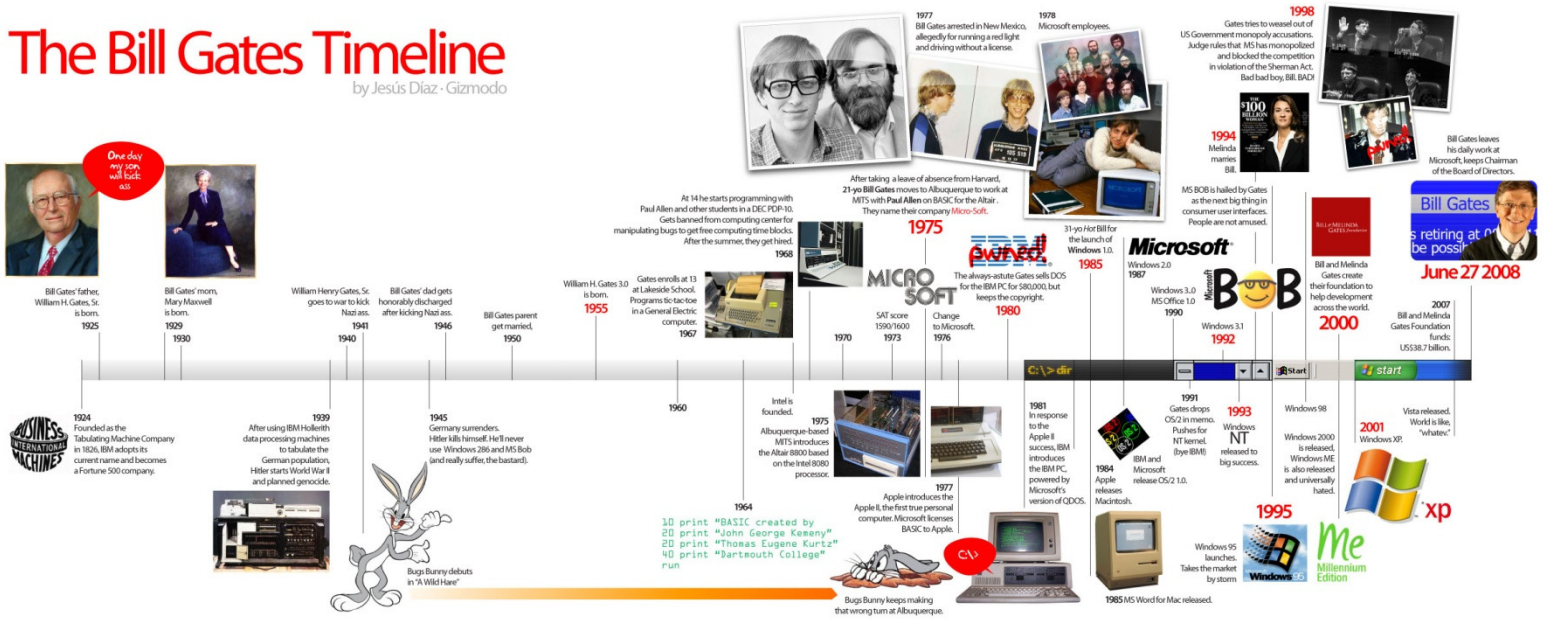
- A definition: Social bookmarking allows you to store your items of interest on the web instead of inside your web browser.
- This has added benefits as you are able to access them from any internet-connected computer and share your finds with other users.
- Once you have registered for a service, they are free to use.
- If sold on the basis of increasing employability through networking this can be a very powerful tool

Here is what you might see with a Social Bookmarking site on **del.icious**

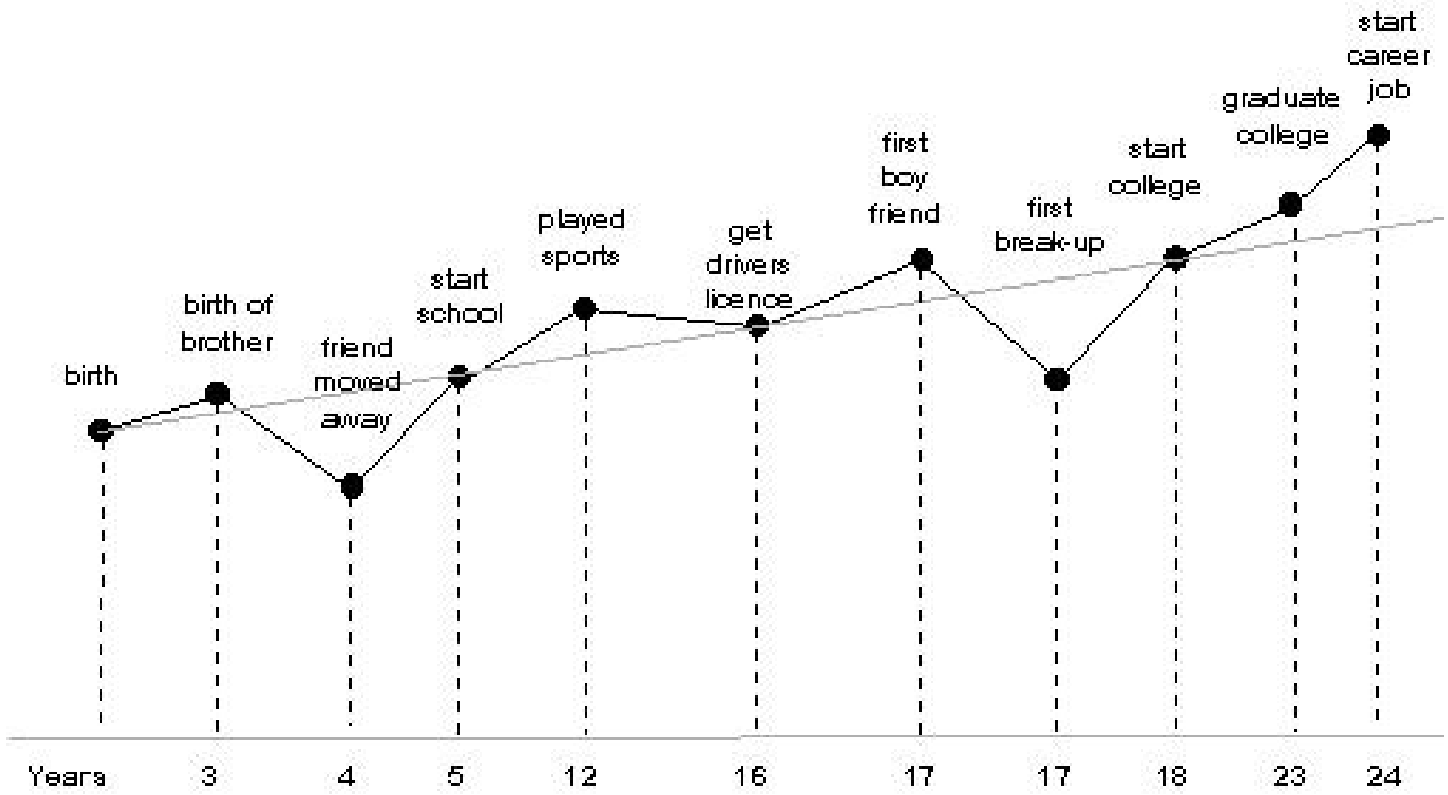
Recommendations

- Are we practising what we preach (Kolb's Learning Cycles)?
- Recommend PDP tutors engage with students with their own cv's etc
- Staff Champions – Quinton and Smallbone (2008)
- Good practice to combine paper and electronic resources – Strivens (2007)

A TIMELINE…BILL GATES!!



A little simpler….!

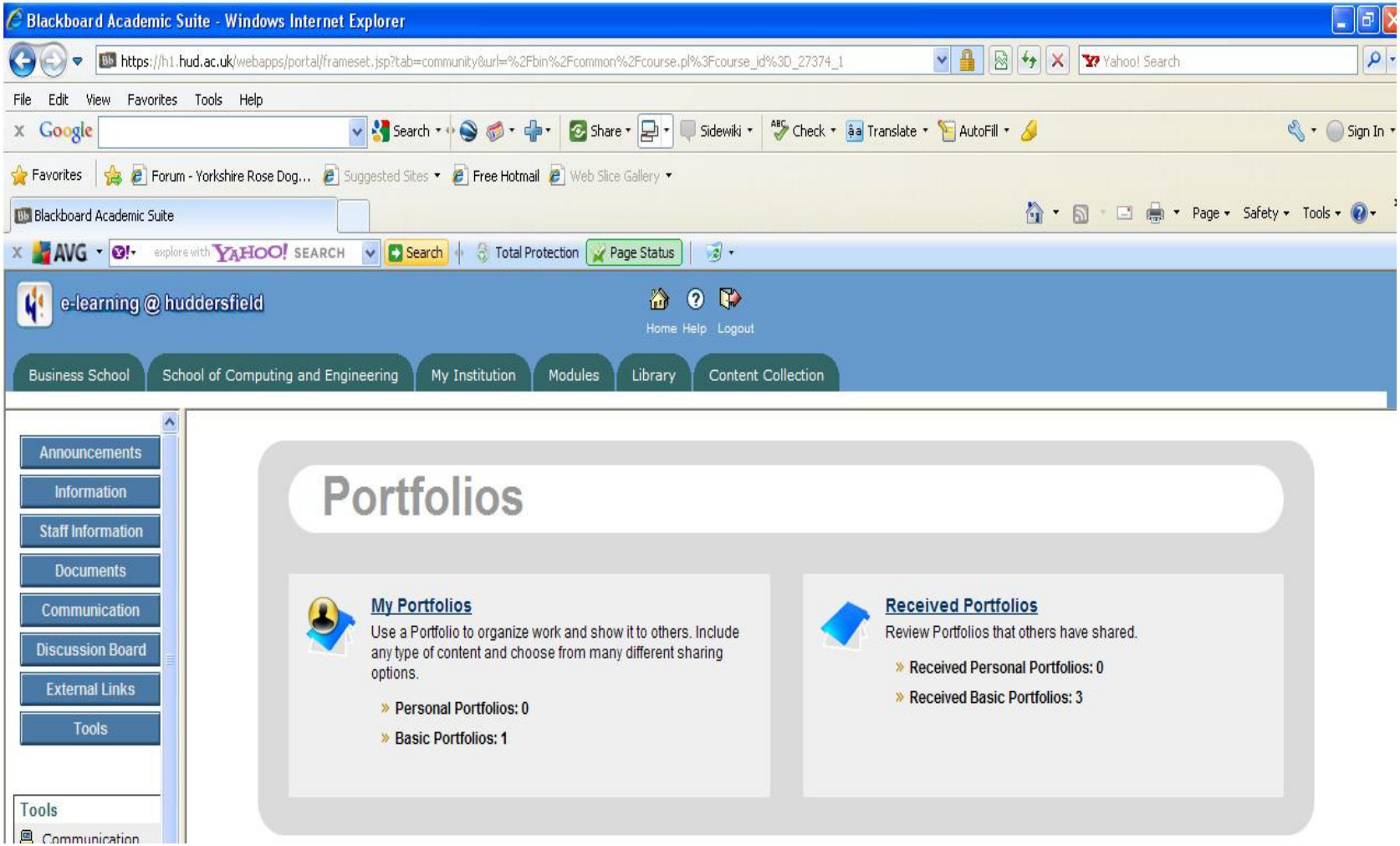


Using Timelines for Skills Development

- Using the A3 sheet of paper record your own achievements and life changes.
- Use any of the templates below, or even better invent your own!
- Against an event Reflect on the Skills that you used or acquired
- Does the Visual aspect of the Timeline appeal?
- What has this brief exercise shown you?

Project Outcomes

- ASET 2010 Paper
- Paper and e-portfolio is a good combination
- Collaborative working with Careers and Employability
- Integrate Academic Skills
- Increase in BABM students engaging
- Web 2.0 technologies
- Embed into induction
- Development in the curriculum


Blackboard Academic Suite - Windows Internet Explorer
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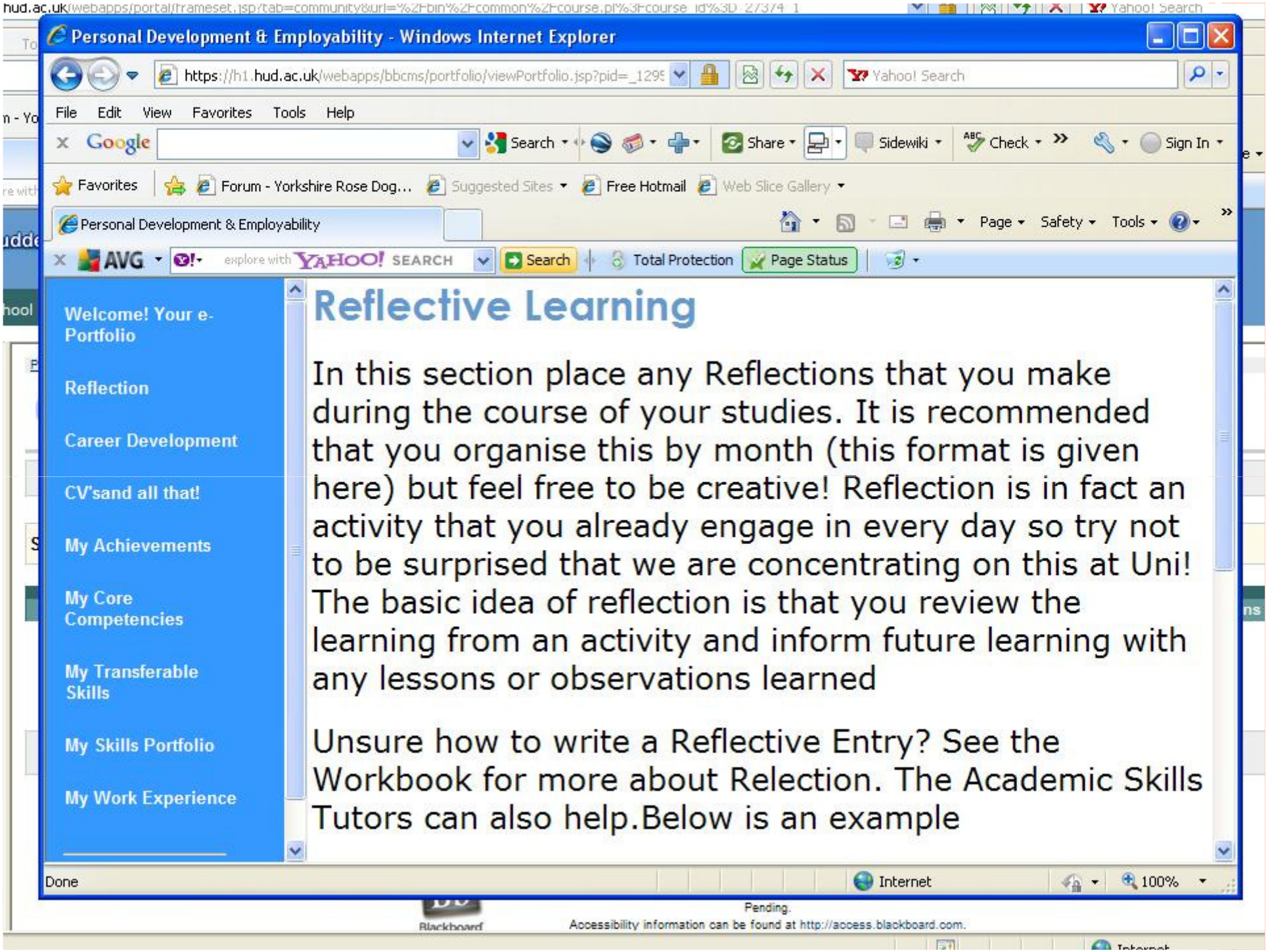
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Favorites
Forum - Yorkshire Rose Dog...
Suggested Sites
Free Hotmail
Web Slice Gallery
Blackboard Academic Suite
Page Safety Tools
Search
Total Protection
Page Status
e-learning @ huddersfield
Home Help Logout
Business School
School of Computing and Engineering
My Institution
Modules
Library
Content Collection
Announcements
Information
Staff Information
Documents
Communication
Discussion Board
External Links
Tools
Tools
Communication
Portfolios
My Portfolios
Use a Portfolio to organize work and show it to others. Include any type of content and choose from many different sharing options.
Personal Portfolios: 0
Basic Portfolios: 1
Received Portfolios
Review Portfolios that others have shared.
Received Personal Portfolios: 0
Received Basic Portfolios: 3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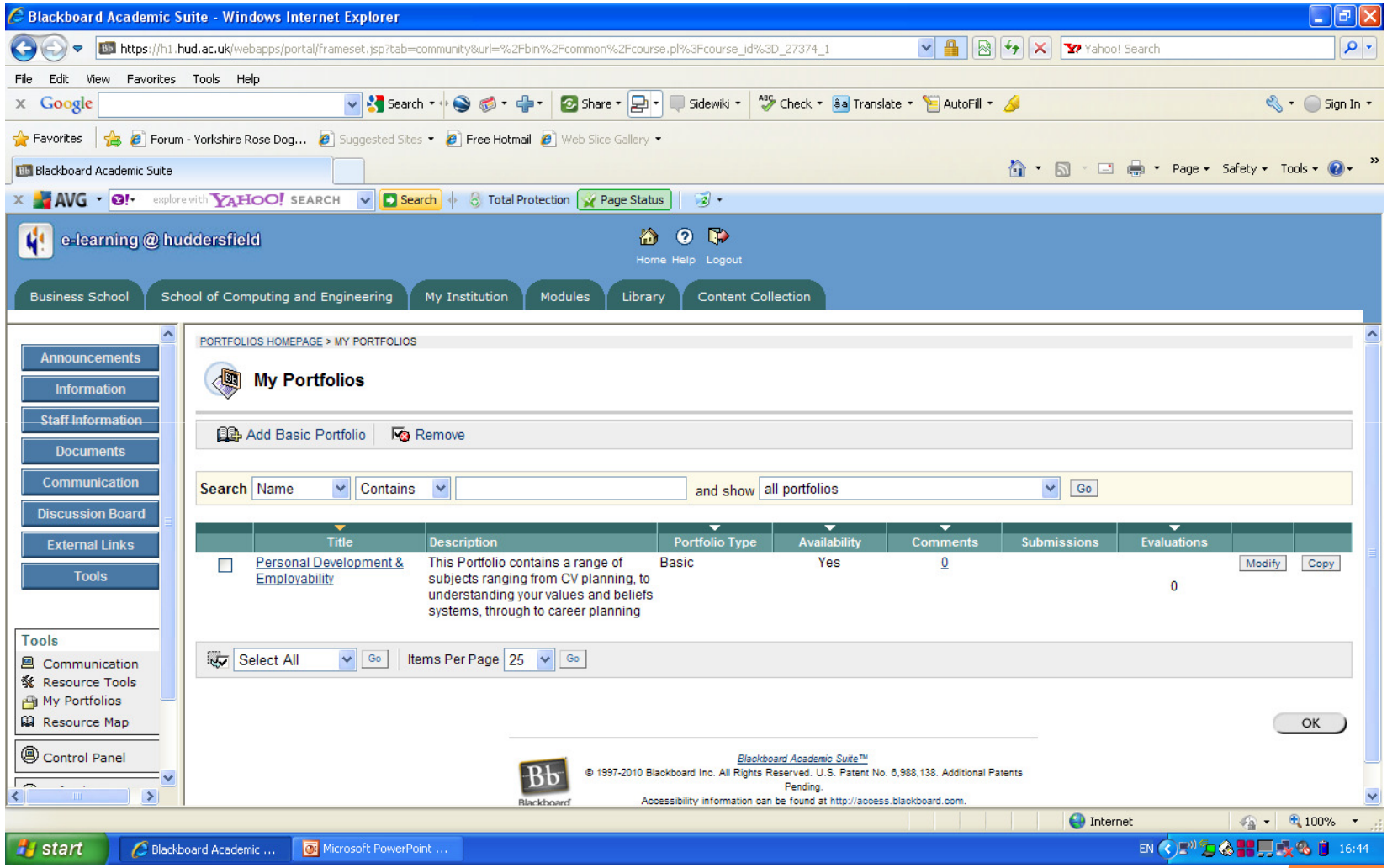
https://h1.hud.ac.uk/webapps/bbcms/portfolio/viewPortfolio.jsp?pid=_129
Yahoo! Search
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Google
Search
Share
Sidewiki
Check
Sign In
Favorites
Forum - Yorkshire Rose Dog...
Suggested Sites
Free Hotmail
Web Slice Gallery
Personal Development & Employability
Page
Safety
Tools
AVG
explore with YAHOO! SEARCH
Search
Total Protection
Page Status
Welcome! Your e-Portfolio
Reflection
Career Development
CV'sand all that!
My Achievements
My Core Competencies
My Transferable Skills
My Skills Portfolio
My Work Experience
Reflective Learning
In this section place any Reflections that you make during the course of your studies. It is recommended that you organise this by month (this format is given here) but feel free to be creative! Reflection is in fact an activity that you already engage in every day so try not to be surprised that we are concentrating on this at Uni! The basic idea of reflection is that you review the learning from an activity and inform future learning with any lessons or observations learned
Unsure how to write a Reflective Entry? See the Workbook for more about Relection. The Academic Skills Tutors can also help.Below is an example
Done
Internet
100%
Pending.
Accessibility information can be found at http://access.blackboard.com.


Blackboard Academic Suite - Windows Internet Explorer
https://h1.hud.ac.uk/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab=community&url=%2Fbin%2Fcommon%2Fcourse.pl%3Fcourse_id%3D_27374_1
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Blackboard Academic Suite
e-learning @ huddersfield
Home Help Logout
Business School
School of Computing and Engineering
My Institution
Modules
Library
Content Collection
Announcements
Information
Staff Information
Documents
Communication
Discussion Board
External Links
Tools
Tools
Communication
Resource Tools
My Portfolios
Resource Map
Control Panel
PORTFOLIOS HOMEPAGE > MY PORTFOLIOS
My Portfolios
Add Basic Portfolio
Remove
Search Name Contains and show all portfolios Go
Title
Description
Portfolio Type
Availability
Comments
Submissions
Evaluations
Personal Development & Employability
This Portfolio contains a range of subjects ranging from CV planning, to understanding your values and beliefs systems, through to career planning
Basic
Yes
0
0
Modify
Copy
Select All Go
Items Per Page 25 Go
OK
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