University of Huddersfield Repository

Tinker, Amanda and Kannara, Vidya

Visual e-portfolios: a multi-layered model to develop students’ professional identity

Original Citation


This version is available at http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/28029/

The University Repository is a digital collection of the research output of the University, available on Open Access. Copyright and Moral Rights for the items on this site are retained by the individual author and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full items free of charge; copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided:

- The authors, title and full bibliographic details is credited in any copy;
- A hyperlink and/or URL is included for the original metadata page; and
- The content is not changed in any way.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk.

http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/
Visual E-Portfolios: a Multi-layered Model to Develop Students’ Professional Identity

Association for Learning Development in Higher Education Conference
21-23 March 2016
Dr Amanda Tinker and Vidya Kannara
School of Art, Design and Architecture
Outline

• Introduction, rationale and background
• Focus group analysis and case study findings
• Presentation of the e-portfolio model
• Discussion, application of model and questions
Tradition of the Design Portfolio
Tradition of the Design Portfolio

“By definition, a design portfolio is a grouping of loose sheets collected in a portable case.”

“By the middle of the twentieth century...a portfolio, of a carried case, similar to those that architects produce, became a routine appendage for any aspiring student.”

“‘Send me your URL’ is fast becoming a more common request than ‘bring in your portfolio’. But according to many design leaders, a website is generally considered an introduction – a preview to the print portfolio that will follow."

Eisenman (2006, pp.9-10)

“The ‘Exit Portfolio’ - ....the portfolio you [the student] will use when you complete your education and are stepping into the workforce full time...you are exiting the educational phase of your life as an architect, interior designer, or landscape architect. This is when your portfolio will receive the most scrutiny by several, if not many, practitioners”.

Bender (2012, p.28)
Project Aim and Objectives

To share, map and review current e-portfolio practice, with a view to developing a School Strategy.

- To investigate staff/student perceptions and share current good practice within the School.
- To map current e-portfolio activity within the School and its relationship to the institutional VLE.
- To review current e-portfolio technology, including open source tools and e-portfolio tools/activity in other arts-based universities.
- To develop a School strategy/approach and make recommendations to inform university e-portfolio initiatives.
Method

- Questionnaire
- School event
- Staff and Student focus groups
- Evaluation criteria form
Perceptions and Practices
What, When, Why and How?

- Different ‘definitions’
- Reflection (PDP, blogs)
- Visual showcase (outward facing, exit portfolios)
- Module vs. course level
- Open source solutions
Focus Group - Staff

**Characteristics**
- Developmental
- Progressive
- Holistic
- Reflective
- Story/Narrative
- PDP
- Digital Identity
- Repository
- Record of Achievement
- Curation
- Collaboration
- Moderation
- Integration (Course, Institutional systems)
- Flexible
- Creative expression
- Sustainable/Portable

**Differentiation**
- Purpose
- Audience
- Subject discipline
- Time
- Learning log vs. Exit portfolio
- Formative vs. Summative Assessment
- Content vs. Presentation
- Flexible vs. Rigid
- Creative vs. Standardised
- Tactile vs. Virtual
- Supplement vs. Replacement
- Free tools vs. Institutional

**Tensions**
- Feedback (Student ↔ Staff)
- Assessment
- Audience (Tutor, Peer, Industry)

**Motivation**
Focus Group – Final Year Students

Showing off at the end
Getting that job
Taking time and effort
Selling yourself
Portrays attitude

Expected

Keeps improving
Certain version of yourself
Gets you through the door

Slick

As fresh as possible, keep it moving

Retarded to share early work

Exit Portfolio & Professional Identity
Ideas

Sketchbooks

Commercial
- Professional
- Focus on skills and level of ability

Freelance (Designer Maker)
- Personal
- Character
- Focus on the person and product

Interview

CV

Physical
- Techniques
- Research Journal
- Progression
- Timeline
- Technical File

E-Portfolio

Press Pack
- Vision statement
- Physical and/or electronic

“Refined”
- Transferrable skills
- Extra curricular activities

Snapshot of “the best of the best.”
Dr Amanda Tinker & Vidya Kannara – University of Huddersfield
Conclusion and Future Directions

**E-Portfolios**

Yet, in **transition** and in **tandem**....
Currently viewed as a welcome addition (not replacement) to the tactile, physical portfolio.

**Students →** A means to an end
- Connection to curriculum
- Motivation changes as sense of professional identity develops
- ‘Package’ of different tools

**Staff →** Holistic view

- Raise awareness of e-portfolio potential amongst staff
- Capture perceptions of first year students
- Identification of an ‘institutional e-portfolio solution’ project
- Pilot model and e-portfolio tool with three courses
Discussion

• How do your students develop their professional identity?

• Which tools/mechanisms are used and what support is needed?

• What would be the main focus of an e-portfolio in your discipline (e.g. reflective learning, PDP, professional practice/exit portfolio etc.)?

Feedback and discussion of our model:

– How might this apply (or be adapted) to your context?
Visual e-portfolio in creative disciplines

Course →

Year 1
Achievements, badges,

Year 2
...

Placement Year
...

Year 3
...

...

Content →

Academic - reflective learning >

Professional - developing brand identity
e-portfolio repository of artefacts and evidence

Audience →

Tutors
Reflective Summary

Peers
Reflective Summary

Public
Reflective Summary

Public
Reflective Summary

...

Curated showcase

Dr Amanda Tinker & Vidya Kannara — University of Huddersfield, 2016
Bibliography


