

# Eportfolios

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excellence through learning

# Outline

- What is an eportfolio?
- Why do eportfolios matter?
- How can you use an eportfolio?
- What systems are available?
- 2009 portfolio project
- 2010 portfolio project
- The future.....

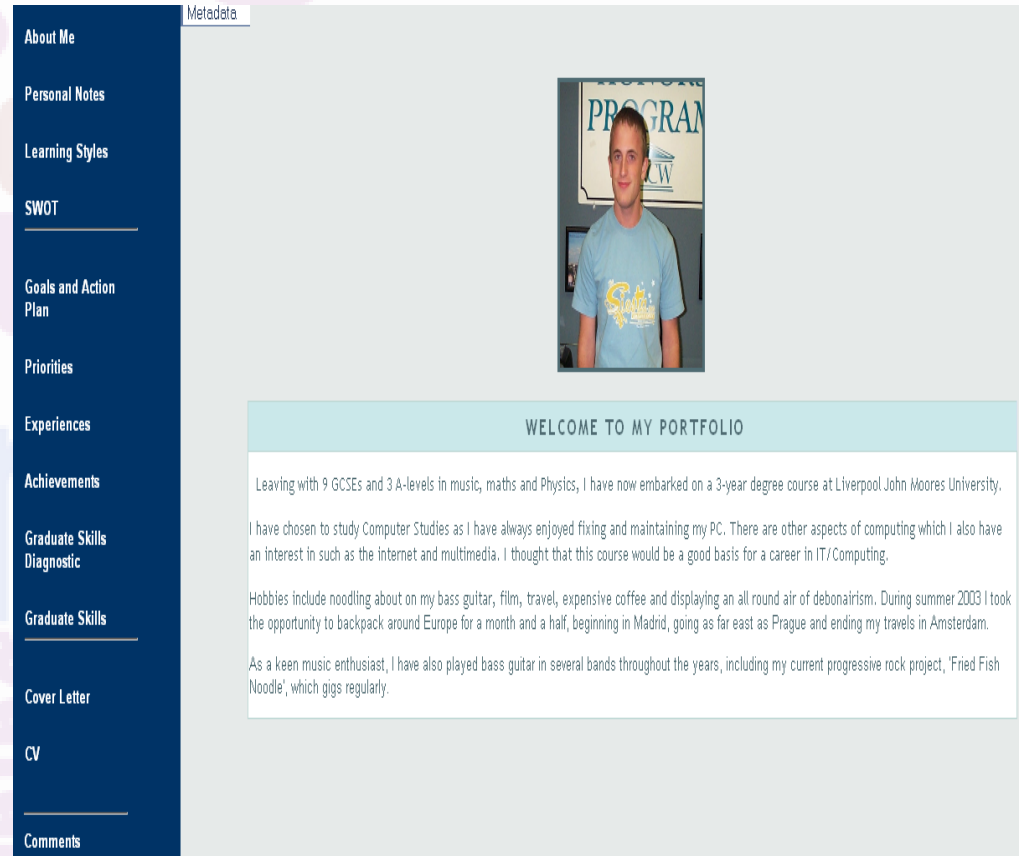


# What is an eportfolio?

- **Port** - to move
- **Folio** - papers or artefacts
- A portable collection of papers and/or artefacts presented in a variety of formats
- A place to assemble records and products of learning and work to help an individual gain new work opportunities
- **Old idea new presentation method?**

# Eportfolio: definition

- “An e-portfolio is a purposeful aggregation of digital artefacts created by the learner articulating and evidencing experiences, achievements and learning” (JISC 2008)



The image shows a screenshot of an e-portfolio website. On the left is a dark blue vertical navigation menu with white text. The menu items are: About Me, Personal Notes, Learning Styles, SWOT, Goals and Action Plan, Priorities, Experiences, Achievements, Graduate Skills Diagnostic, Graduate Skills, Cover Letter, CV, and Comments. The main content area is light grey. At the top right of the main area is a 'Metadata' tab. Below it is a photo of a young man in a blue t-shirt standing in front of a poster that says 'PROGRAM'. Below the photo is a light blue banner with the text 'WELCOME TO MY PORTFOLIO'. Underneath the banner is a white text box containing the following text:

Leaving with 9 GCSEs and 3 A-levels in music, maths and Physics, I have now embarked on a 3-year degree course at Liverpool John Moores University.

I have chosen to study Computer Studies as I have always enjoyed fixing and maintaining my PC. There are other aspects of computing which I also have an interest in such as the internet and multimedia. I thought that this course would be a good basis for a career in IT/Computing.

Hobbies include noodling about on my bass guitar, film, travel, expensive coffee and displaying an all round air of debonairism. During summer 2003 I took the opportunity to backpack around Europe for a month and a half, beginning in Madrid, going as far east as Prague and ending my travels in Amsterdam.

As a keen music enthusiast, I have also played bass guitar in several bands throughout the years, including my current progressive rock project, 'Fried Fish Noodle', which gigs regularly.

# Why do eportfolios matter?

- Engage and motivate learners
- Personalise learning
- Promotes reflective practice
- Make progress and attainment more obvious
- Promote personal development planning
- support for learning and regular formative feedback
- Retention & widening participation
- Supports collaboration & collaborative learning

# Eportfolios and learning

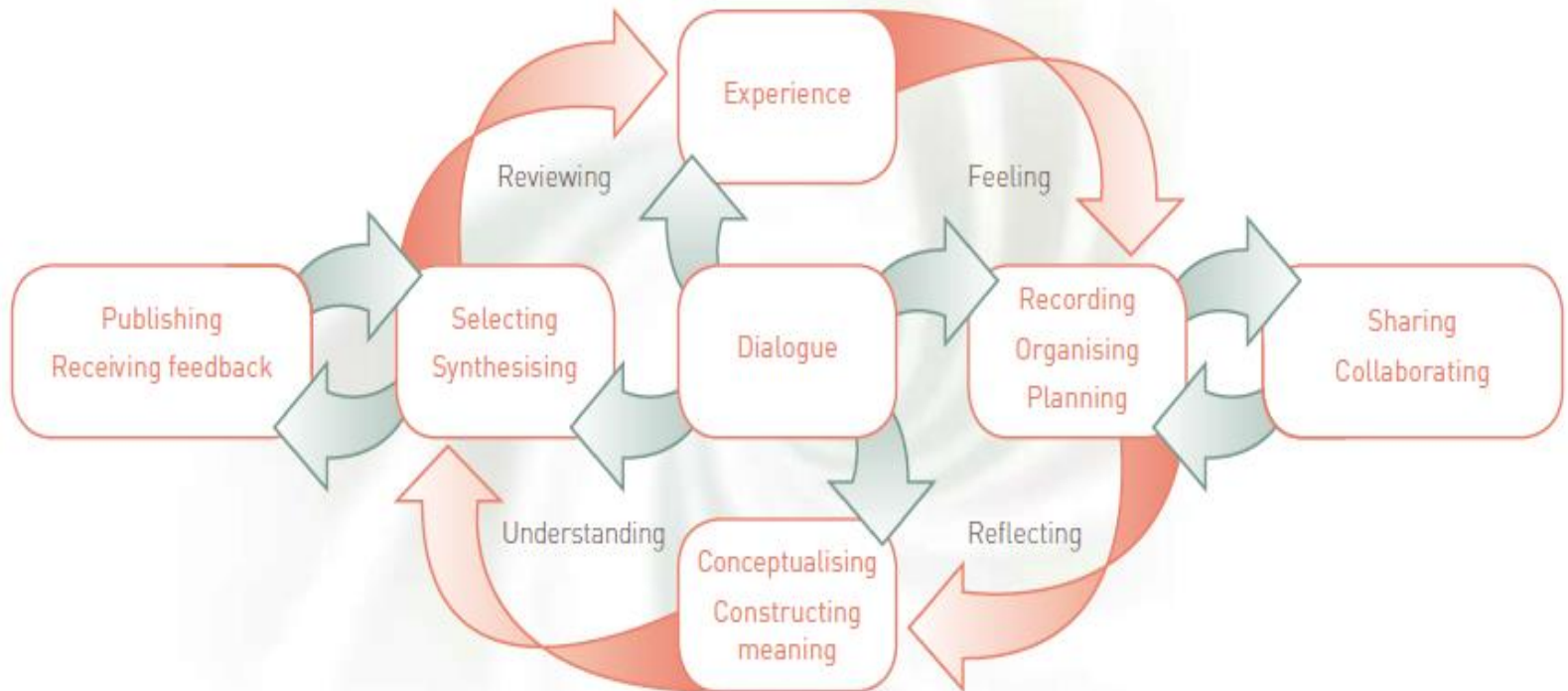
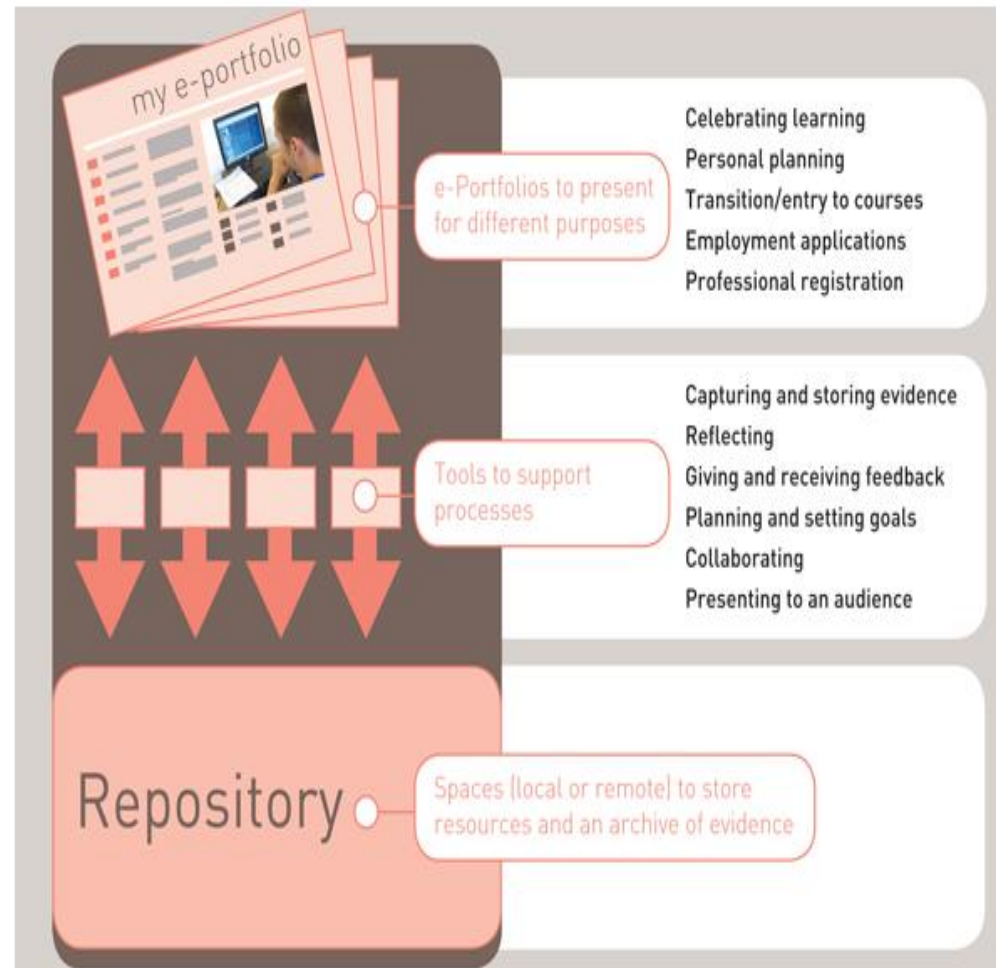


Figure 2 A model of e-portfolio-based learning, adapted from Kolb (1984)

# How can you use an eportfolio?

- Assessment: formative or summative
- Personal development
- Demonstrate achievement
- Support learning
- Develop and evidence skills (generic/key)
- Work based learning
- Career development & employability
- Record progress & set goals
- Promote reflection
- A learning approach

## Understanding how e-portfolios work



# Learner perspective

- “The eportfolio...is the reflection of the student as a person undergoing personal development, not just a store of evidence”(Rebbeck 2008)
- “So far when using the e-portfolio I have thought about decisions more and I question more things”(Murray 2006)





# What systems are available?



DIGI[cation]



# 2009 portfolio project

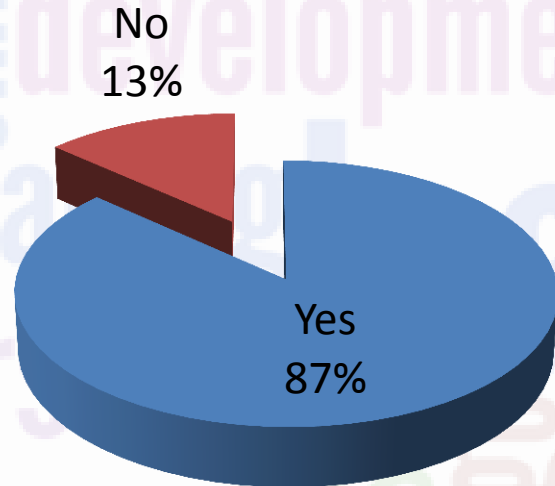
- 18 Lidl retail management students for 12 weeks
- Aim: to develop and evidence academic skills and personal development

## **Lessons learned:**

- Portfolio should support learning not become the focus of learning
- Software should be visually pleasing & easy to use
- Content should have be clearly defined & structured from the beginning
- Embed in the curriculum don't add on
- Reflection....???
- Personalisation is key

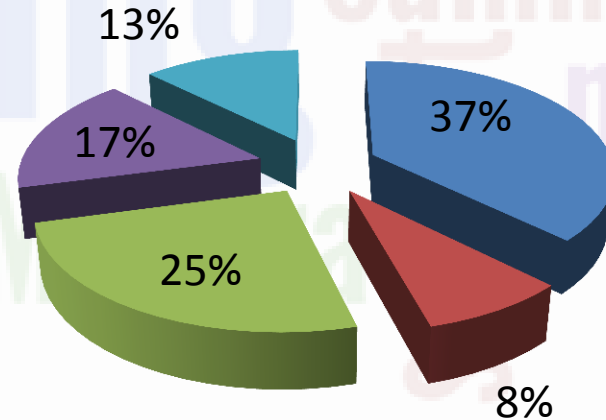
# Learner feedback

Did you enjoy the experience of creating an eportfolio?



Which areas did you improve?

- IT
- Writing
- Personal development
- research skills
- none



# 2010 portfolio project

- Using Mahara
- 60 1<sup>st</sup> year social science & social studies learners
- 8 weeks
- Aim: to explore the use of eportfolios as a learning process and as a formative assessment method a learning support and for skills development

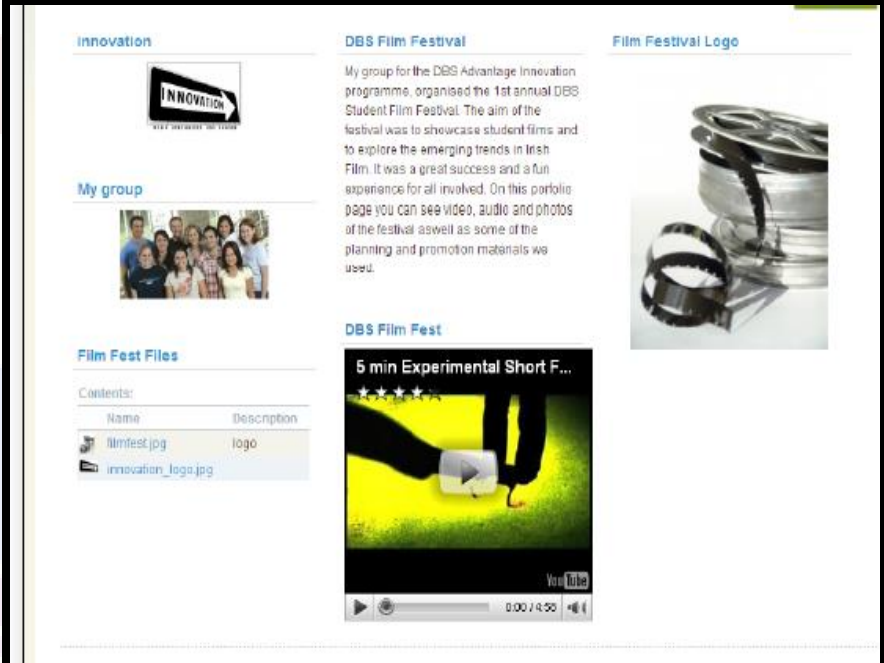
The screenshot shows the Mahara eportfolio system interface. At the top, there is a search bar and a user login status: "You are logged in as Dai (Surfer Rosa - staff1)". The main navigation menu includes: HOME, MY RESUMÉ, MY BLOGS, MY PROFILE, MY FILES, MY CONTACTS, MY VIEWS, and MY ACCOUNT. The current page is "My Resumé", with sub-navigation for "My Resumé", "My Goals", and "My Skills". The "My Resumé" section contains four expandable fields: "Cover Letter", "Interests", "Contact Information", and "Personal Information". A "Save" button is located below these fields. The "Employment History" section features a table with the following data:

Start date	End date	Position		
02 August 2007	02 August 2007	gopher at global universities	Edit	Delete

An "Add" button is located below the table. On the right side, there is a "Search My Portfolio" section with a search input and a "Go" button. Below that is a "Main menu" section with three links: "Mahara Student Guide", "View Creation Quick Guide", and "Quick Reference Guide".

# Mahara

- Open source
- Integrates with Moodle
- Straight forward to use
- Interactive
- Visually pleasing
- Similar to popular social media websites
- Can upload movies, files, photos
- Blog
- Resume builder
- Major scope to personalise



The screenshot displays a Moodle user profile for a user named 'innovation'. The profile is organized into several sections:

- innovation**: Features a profile picture of a black arrow pointing right with the word 'INNOVATION' written above it.
- My group**: Shows a group photo of several people.
- Film Fest Files**: A table listing uploaded files:

Name	Description
filmfest.jpg	logo
innovation_logo.jpg	
- DBS Film Festival**: A text-based post describing the organization of the 1st annual DBS Student Film Festival, mentioning its aim to showcase student films and explore emerging trends in Irish film.
- Film Festival Logo**: A photograph of a film reel.
- DBS Film Fest**: A video player showing a 5-minute experimental short film. The video thumbnail depicts a person's legs in black pants and white shoes, standing on a green field with a yellow sky. The video player interface includes a play button, a progress bar at 0:00 / 4:50, and a volume icon.

# Future

- An eportfolio for every DBS student?
- An eportfolio/web profile for everyone?
- *"Ireland in 2013 will be internationally renowned for the excellence of its research and at the forefront in generating and using new knowledge for economic and social progress, within an innovation driven culture."*

*(National Strategy for Science Technology & Innovation 2006)*



# DBS Mahara

Would you like to try it?

Contact me for a trial account

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# References

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