ePortfolio interoperability in the United Kingdom

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Abstract:
Nottingham University has, in conjunction with regional partners, conducted several projects and demonstrators involving interoperability. The starting points for these projects have been practical implementations or trials to meet institutional academic and support needs and regional education and training requirements allied to governmental policy in these areas.

Interaction with other services and passing of data were essential when looking at lifelong and life wide learning. We needed to consider information, advice and guidance services; applications to colleges, universities and employment; and course requirements and descriptions across regional institutions. Through these experiences we discovered both technical and policy obstacles to implementing previous interoperability standards and proffered solutions to overcome them.

Our latest project mirrors current thinking on the technical interoperability schema. We are working with a portfolio targeting 14-19 year olds to model uses of ePortfolios on vocational pathways, involving multi-locational learning and new progression pathways into HE. This project also involves consideration of recent English governmental policy initiatives on diplomas, apprenticeships, Unique Learner Numbers and social mobility.

www.eportfoliopractice.qut.edu.au/