Australian ePortfolio Symposium 2009

Tuesday 10\textsuperscript{th} February

Track Session:

ePortfolios and employability
Using ePortfolios for RPL

Ms Anthea Leggett and Mr Glen Searle
Brisbane North Institute of TAFE

Abstract:
Brisbane North Institute of TAFE (BNIT) is currently trialling Desire2Learn’s ePortfolio software to test the implementation of BNIT’s E-portfolio and RPL Implementation Model. The model is specific to the IT industry but is transferable to other vocational training areas and the wider national training system.

In September 2008 the Australian Flexible Learning Framework’s E-portfolios Business Activity sponsored BNIT to take part in the BNIT Recognition of Prior Learning Support Systems Trial to evaluate use of an e-portfolio tool that could support the RPL process. A request for Information from BNIT to ePortfolio vendors centred around four key areas:

· learner support processes
· access
· learner options
· portability

Following discussions and presentations, Desire2Learn was chosen as the successful vendor. Desire2Learn was also chosen for its ability to meet BNIT’s technology integration and customisation requirements. From the user’s perspective, Desire2Learn supports the RPL process via forms with which candidates can upload artefacts of evidence; tag, sort and search information; and create presentations for reflection and review for a variety of audiences and purposes.

A focus of the implementation model is to simultaneously tackle industry skills shortages and encourage existing workers to apply for RPL for unrecognised skills leading to both individual and organisational promotion opportunities. BNIT is currently working with Mincom and Education Queensland to finalise the RPL process using Desire2Learn with the aim to develop case studies of candidates’ experiences. BNIT is also seeking links with community services areas such as child care industry where child development portfolios are already prevalent.

Anthea Leggett
Brisbane North Institute of TAFE

Anthea Leggett is an educational designer with Brisbane North Institute of TAFE. Anthea holds a Master of Education (education technology major) and has an interest in researching and trialling emerging technologies and strategies to improve educational outcomes and learner engagement. Anthea has nearly ten years experience working in the university and TAFE sectors in educational multimedia. She has won awards for educational design work from the Australian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education (ASCILITE) and a citation from Griffith University. Recent projects include: educational design and project officer work on Technologies for Learning, the Vocational Graduate Certificate in Blended Learning, and the Australian Flexible Learning Framework’s ePortfolio RPL Support Systems trial.

Glen Searle
Brisbane North Institute of TAFE

Glen Searle is the Manager, Learning Solutions, Innovations Directorate, Brisbane North Institute of TAFE (BNIT). He has headed some major innovative projects such as:

· Your Skills, Your Future (COAG)
· Indigenous eLearning (AFLF)
· eLearning initiatives for operational staff and Leadership (QHealth)

Glen has over 5 years experience as a manager and part of his mission is to explore educational technology solutions to improve educational outcomes for individuals, industry and the wider community. In 2007 Glenn developed the ePortfolio RPL Implementation model designed to streamline BNIT’s Recognition of Prior Learning processes and in 2008 presented the model to the E-portfolio Reference Group in Adelaide. Recently Glenn’s project team have been liaising with Australian Flexible Learning Framework to trial use of Desire2Learn’s ePortfolio tool.
Portfolios have long been a part of learning, teaching and professional practice; therefore, why use ePortfolios and do Web 2.0 tools have to offer?

Ms Hazel Owen
Unitec New Zealand

Abstract:
This paper will showcase what was, at the time, effective practice, whereby Foundation students at Dubai Men's College (DMC) developed a Career ePortfolio as part of an integrated Computer, Research Skills and Projects Course. Some students were able to use their ePortfolio to obtain summer jobs and work placement, and reflective practice was encouraged through discussion, use of rubrics, and peer feedback. However, the ePortfolios were not interactive or easily portable, and the final artefact was produced for assessment.

Several benefits beyond the 'static' ePortfolio utilised at DMC have been identified, in particular around those created with Web 2.0 social software. Key positive outcomes indicated in recent research studies include increased and improved reflective practice, enhancement in the quality of final artefact (partly facilitated by multimedia and mobility), a clear authentic purpose, and a greater sense of audience. The audience is often interactive thereby helping to shift the locus of power from the teacher as ‘knower’.

Designed around experiences at DMC and the benefits mentioned, pre-pilot initiatives were undertaken at Unitec NZ in 2008, and a larger-scale pilot is planned for 2009. Underpinning these initiatives are a range of issues around assessment practices, Web 2.0 tools, professional development, and ethical considerations. This session will describe developments at Unitec NZ, as well as soliciting feedback, input and discussion from the audience around these and other associated aspects of ePortfolios.

Hazel Owen
Unitec New Zealand

Hazel Owen is an Academic Advisor (Education Technology Consultant) at Unitec, NZ. She has been involved with implementing ICT enhanced learning for ten years to date and is involved with training for faculty around the design and adaptation of blended and distance courses, as well as developing them herself. Her research interests include developing learning spaces (physical and virtual) for effective learning, ePortfolios, eAssessment, literacy and numeracy embedding/support, communities of learning, theories and practice around effective PD, and ICT enhanced learning and teaching (ICTELT) underpinned by Sociocultural principles.
QUT Professional Staff ePortfolio – an implementation for professional development

Kim Hauville
Queensland University of Technology

Abstract:
At Queensland University of Technology (QUT), ePortfolio has been an important initiative for more than five years. Beginning as a project to develop a tool for students, much discussion emerged at QUT on the way forward with staff ePortfolio tools as Student ePortfolio use became more prolific.

In 2007 the Division of Administrative Services and the Division of Technology, Information and Learning Support were seeking ways to support Professional Staff within the Divisions to more effectively progress in their careers at QUT. The Division wished for staff to be able to be better equipped for performance review, goal setting and planning, and the recruitment process. With more than four years experience with a tool which was designed to assist in such undertakings, QUT was well positioned to develop a new ePortfolio tool. With these needs as a driver, the Professional Staff ePortfolio (PSeP) project was established. The PSeP tool used principles from SeP of structure and design, but incorporated a new skills framework aligned with QUT’s staff capabilities. The pilot involved release of the tool to staff in both Divisions with workshops for a cohort of staff who nominated for the pilot.

As this project was emerging, the Department of Information Technology Services (ITS) and Department of Integrated Help Services (IHS), in the lead up to a significant change process became aware that they could make some significant improvements to retention and progression of staff by developing a People Capability Framework (PCF) (QUT, 2008). PSeP was the obvious vehicle through which staff and supervisors could collect, share and collaborate with regard to evidence of skills and skill development.

This session will describe the emergence of the Professional Staff ePortfolio, pilot outcomes and future developments.

Kim Hauville
Queensland University of Technology
Ms Kim Hauville is the ePortfolio Service and Project Manager at QUT. Ms Hauville has been involved with ePortfolio at QUT since its inception in 2003 and has worked directly with staff and students using ePortfolio since this time. Ms Hauville has a background in psychology, 9 years experience in Information Technology contexts, and six years experience in the Higher Education Sector covering project management, infrastructure management, systems development and quality standards.