

Innovation in Education: Paper-Based to Electronic Portfolios in Higher Education

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Quotes on Innovation

- “Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower.”
Steve Jobs (American Entrepreneur Apple co-Founder, b.1955)
- “If you're not failing every now and again, it's a sign you're not doing anything very innovative.”
Woody Allen (American Actor, Author, Screenwriter and Film Director, b.1935)
- “Innovation is the central issue in economic prosperity”
Michael Porter

Why Innovate?

- It brings in alternative tools and ways that aid in the completion of everyday tasks.
- **Example: No need for surface mail, we have?**
- NB: Tools contain both affordances and constraints.
- If innovation is abandoned, stagnation takes over

The 3 “Don’ts” when Innovating

- **Don’t** lose the initial perspective/view of the potential adopter
- **Don’t** forget the larger culture, structures, and norms that will react to your efforts
- **Don’t** reinvent the wheel

Our Focus: Innovation In Education

- What is Education?
‘the organization of acquired habits of conduct and tendencies to behavior’ (Vygotsky, 1992).
- Note:
ICT is not the only source of innovations in education

ePortfolio as an Innovation in Education

- Vicki and Fairleigh (2005) define an electronic portfolio as a **collection** of authentic and diverse **evidence** drawn from a **larger archive** representing what one has **learned over time**, on which they have **reflected**, and can be presented to **one or more audiences** for a specific purpose

Example of an ePortfolio System

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Chisimba - Mozilla Firefox" displaying an ePortfolio system. The browser's address bar shows the URL `http://localhost/framework/app/index.php?module=eportfolio`. The page header includes the University of the Western Cape logo and the "eTeaching NEW! 3.0" logo. Navigation links include Home, Communications, Resources, User, Admin, and Logout. The main content area is titled "ePortfolio Management System (ePMS)" and "Christine Wanjiru 's ePortfolio". Below this, there are tabs for "My ePortfolio", "Other's ePortfolio", and "Manage Members". A series of tabs represent different portfolio sections: Identification, Activity, Affiliation, Transcripts, Qualification, Goals, Competency, Interests, Reflections, and Assertions. The "Identification" tab is selected, showing "Wanjiru's Identification Details". Within this section, there are sub-tabs for Name, Address, Contact, Email, and Demographics. The "User Details" sub-section is active, displaying a form with the following information:

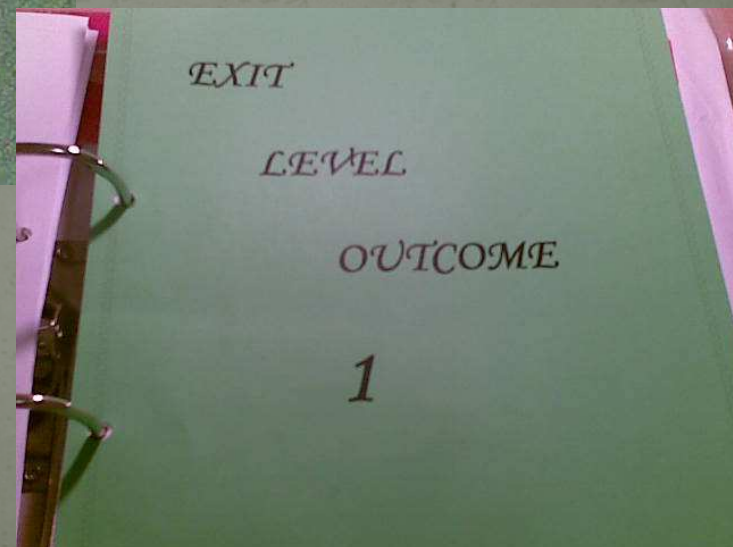
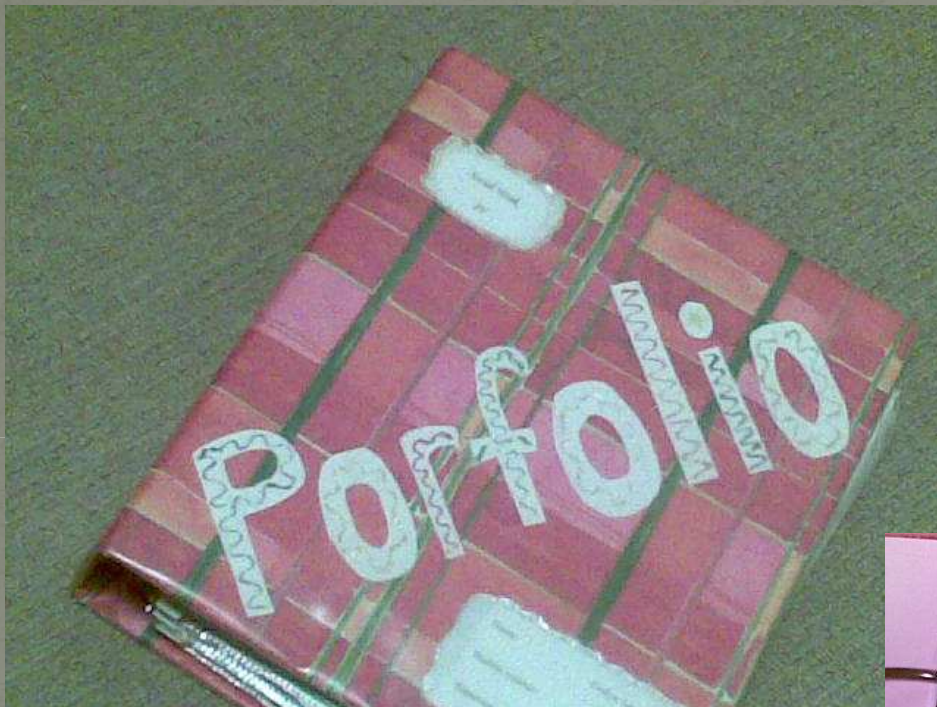
Title	Surname	Other Names
Miss	Wanjiru	Christine

The browser's status bar at the bottom shows "Done" and the taskbar includes icons for "eportfolio ebana", "root@paul-laptop: ~", and "Chisimba - Mozilla Fire..."

Why ePortfolios

- ePortfolios replace paper-based portfolios due to the following limitations;
 - They fail to meet expected outcomes
 - They do not demonstrate reflective learning
 - The size and number of portfolios an assessor is allocated to assess
 - They are clumsy, time consuming, cumbersome, lacking transferability, and often contain a structure that proves difficult for the assessor to understand

Illustration of a Paper-Based Portfolio



Impact of Electronic Portfolios on Reflective Learning

- “cognitive apprenticeship” - problem-solving experiences are shared between a novice and a mentor
 - In the process Reflective Learning occurs by the learner
 - The process involves selection of artifacts based on preset standards

How Could Electronic Portfolios Encourage Informal Learning?

- “only 10 -15 per cent of learning is formal”
Jay Cross (2006) as cited in (Attwell, 2007)
- “We were born into a digital world where we are expected to be able to **create, consume, remix, and share material** with each other and with lots of strangers”
- ePortfolios could help in **tapping the knowledge acquired in the informal set ups**



Thanks