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
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”
- “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