

# 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" with the address bar displaying "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" section is visible, containing a table with the following information:

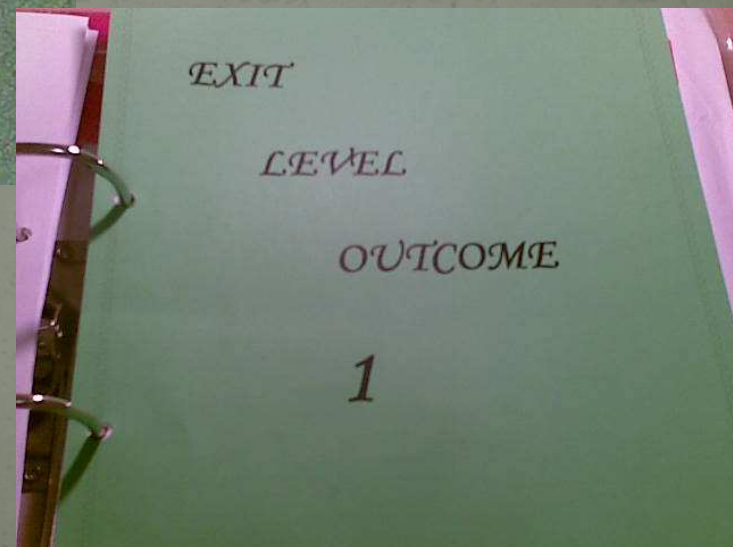
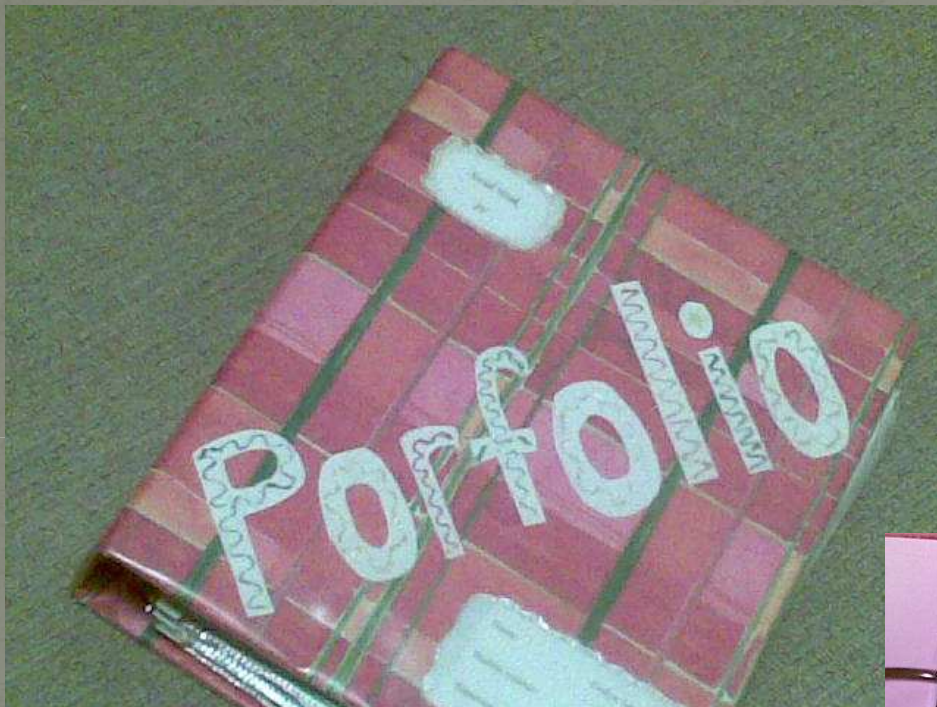
| Title | Surname | Other Names |
|-------|---------|-------------|
| Miss  | Wanjiru | Christine   |

The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the "Done" status, an "eportfolio ebana" application, a terminal window with "root@paul-laptop: ~", and the "Chisimba - Mozilla Fire..." browser window.

# 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