Title of Session: E-Portfolios
Moderator: Lynne Wolters
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Room: E-Portfolio Group

LynneW: Welcome to the June E-Portfolio discussion. It is nice to have each of you join us.

LynneW: My name is Lynne Wolters.

LynneW: I am an asst. prof. of ed tech at a university in Portland, OR.

LynneW: Please introduce yourselves. Tell who you are, where you are from and what you teach.

GaryC: I am Gary Clay. I am going to retire in a couple of years and am taking my masters courses at UMW in Virginia

LynneW: Thank you Gary.

MagunaJ: My name is Maguna, and I am currently a substitute teacher. I have a preliminary single subject in social science, and am currently in the fifth year program at San Diego State University

LynneW: Welcome Maguna

ElijahGst1 joined the room.

LynneW: Scott, please tell us about yourself.

LynneW: Hi Elijah.

ElijahGst1: hello Lynne

ElijahGst1: sorry I'm late

ElijahGst1: just got off da highway

LynneW: We were just beginning our self-introductions.

ElijahGst1: ok

LynneW: Please introduce yourself, tell us where you are from, and what grade you

teach.

ElijahGst1: actually I'm from Beaumont, Texas but I go to McNeese state university in Lake Charles, Louisiana

LynneW: Welcome

ElijahGst1: I'm not a teacher, but I'm going for my masters in instructional technology

LynneW: Wonderful.

LynneW: Anyone else?

LynneW: Who here is new to Tapped In?

BJB2 . o O (Scott is having problems with his chat window...we're working on it)

ElijahGst1: I am

TomSmy joined the room.

LynneW: Welcome Tom.

MagunaJ: I am also new

GaryC: I'm relatively new. I have only done the tips and tricks

TomSmy: greetings from SC

LynneW: Please introduce yourself. Tell us where you are from and what you teach.

LynneW: OK Gary. Good to know.

TomSmy: graduate educational technology program

ScottStr: I'm sorry I'm late. I couldn't get on with my mac

LynneW: Very good.

LynneW: Scott, please introduce yourself.

ScottStr: I am Scott Strenge and I am a high school teacher at Wyndmere, ND and I'm currently getting my masters.

LynneW: What masters degree are you seeking?

ScottStr: This is a required portion of my tech class.

LynneW smiles

ScottStr: secondary principalship

LynneW: Let's hope we can make it an enjoyable "have to".

ScottStr: Our professor is very tech savvy

LynneW: Our principals need to be tech savvy as well. Glad to have you here.

ScottStr: glad to be here- I hate Macs sometimes

LynneW: Let me do a quick survey of your interests and experiences so I know how best to structure our time.

LynneW: Anyone here created an e-portfolio?

GaryC: no not me

MagunaJ: No

ElijahGst1: never

TomSmy: yes

LynneW: Scott?

ScottStr: I am preparing an e-folio for my college class

LynneW: Tom, tell us what the purpose of your e-portfolio and what software you used to create it.

TomSmy: I have created an ePortfolio for personal use using a tool added on to Blackboard

LynneW: How did that work for you?

ScottStr: I created a little one on Blackboard also.

TomSmy: it was primarily for demonstration purposes. It worked fairly well, although I prefer to create my own web pages using Dreamweaver and that way I have more control.

LynneW: Does everyone here know what Blackboard is?

GaryC: yes

LynneW: It is a course management system - web-based.

LynneW: Very commonly used by universities and colleges

ScottStr: I teach an ITV high school class with it as a supplement

LynneW: Coming here today, is your primary interest in assigning and evaluating student e-portfolios or personal/professional e-portfolios for yourselves.

TomSmy: Lynne - I received the following message from TI: "The group, E-Portfolios Discussion, will be archived in 21 days unless the owner, Lynne W, or a moderator with configuration privileges chooses to renew it. "]

LynneW: I just renewed the group.

TomSmy: assigning/evaluating

TomSmy: thanks

MagunaJ: I am interested in creating a professional portfolio for job interviews

ScottStr: my own professional page

GaryC: I'm guessing more for personal use, but I'm not sure what else I could do with it

TomSmy: I am also interested in creating a quality professional / personal portfolio

ElijahGst1: I'm so glad I decided to join in on this discussion

ElijahGst1: I really need to know about this

LynneW: I have both assigned/evaluated and created my own e-portfolios. My students are undergrads and graduate students.

LynneW: I want to offer you an e-portfolios overview 'according to Lynne'.

LynneW: Ready?

GaryC: sure

ScottStr: yes

ElijahGst1: yes

MagunaJ: yes

LynneW: No other time is planning important than in the design and creation of e-portfolios.

TomSmy: yes!

LynneW: You must be VERY CLEAR about audience, ownership, purpose.

LynneW: Let's talk about audience first.

LynneW: Audience may be school administrators.

LynneW: It may be classroom teachers.

LynneW: It may be employers, classroom parents.

LynneW: It may be multiple audiences -- be VERY careful here

LynneW: Each audience will create its own parameters for what type of artifacts will be created, how you will make decisions about navigation around your portfolio, access, etc.

MagunaJ: What do you mean?

LynneW: An e-portfolio is NOT a scrapbook of everything you've done in a class or in life or in a job.

LynneW: An e-portfolio is a focused view showcasing what you have learned, what you know, how you reflect on that process and your new knowledge, skills, abilities.

LynneW: REFLECTION is an imperative piece of an e-portfolio.

LynneW: Maguna, say you were assigning student e-portfolios.

LynneW: They would probably be password protected or sheltered from being widely open via the Internet.

LynneW: You would probably have a somewhat different parameter for your own professional portfolios.

LynneW: Questions?

ScottStr: how does it relate to facebook or myspace

LynneW: Great question.

LynneW: Anyone have a response to Scott's question?

ScottStr: I know it is more formal

LynneW: Scott, I would definitely not use either as a medium for hosting my e-portfolio.

TomSmy: fb and ms are more public

LynneW: They are also not widely viewed favorably by administrators or human resources.

TomSmy: but they are untapped resources, I think, for developing some type of portfolio components

ElijahGst1: I hear about accounts getting phished all da time

ScottStr: I knew that I'm just figuring a way to sell to my students

LynneW: There are many free, for fee, or easily adaptable spaces you can choose from.

TomSmy: ning, for example

TomSmy: http://www.ning.com

LynneW: Having an e-portfolio next to pictures of their latest party experience is not compatible with more "formal" presentation needs.

LynneW: Again, it depends on purpose and audience.

ScottStr: I'm contemplating using ning next year

LynneW: If students were creating a portfolio whose audience were their peers, Facebook and/or MySpace would be appropriate.

Lynne W: Ning is a good choice.

LynneW: Is everyone familiar with Ning?

GaryC: No

TomSmy: (but it's been down all afternoon... :(

ElijahGst1: no

ScottStr: somewhat

MagunaJ: no

LynneW: Tom, please explain Ning.

ElijahGst1: just saw that

TomSmy: Ning is an online platform for users to create their own social websites and social networks[1], launched in October 2005. Ning was co-founded by Marc Andreessen and Gina Bianchini. Ning is Andreessen's third startup (after Netscape and Opsware), and gets much of its notability from Andreessen's successes with those companies.[2][3]

TomSmy: Ning means "peace" in Chinese, as explained by Gina Bianchini on the company blog

TomSmy: (from wikipedia - sorry... !

LynneW: Good use of wikipedia.

LynneW: I'm sorry we can't visit a Ning site right now. I belong to several educator communities in Ning

ScottStr: I hear the argument that employers don't really look at the e-folios, what are your thoughts?

LynneW: That is generally true.

LynneW: Which is why I said how important it is for principals to be tech savvy.

LynneW: They set the tone, evaluate new and existing staff, and make purchase and policy decisions.

TomSmy: and a good reason to determine the purpose of the portfolio and in some cases to make it concise and easily navigable!

LynneW: Most do so without expertise or understanding about ed tech.

LynneW: Exactly.

ScottStr: well put Lynne

LynneW: So, for those of you who are interested in creating your own e-portfolios, let's move through a decision-making process.

LynneW: Whether by choice or by requirement you must be very clear about purpose and audience.

LynneW: Just like creating a tight and focused piece of writing, your e-portfolio must be tightly focused on audience and purpose.

LynneW: If my audience were prospective employers....

LynneW: my selection of reflections and artifacts would be very different than if I were creating a portfolio for a grad class.

LynneW: Can you guess why?

ScottStr: we are trying to sell ourselves

LynneW: Yes, and what you are "selling" is different.

LynneW: In a class you are "selling" or demonstrating your learning.

LynneW: In seeking employment you are selling your competency and fit to a particular school and assignment.

GaryC: And people have very little time so we need to draw them in and focus them

LynneW: Yes.

LynneW: People won't spend lots of time on an e-portfolio.

LynneW: You must think carefully about what best fits your purpose and your audience.

ScottStr: similar to a resume- sell yourself quickly

LynneW: Much like determining what you will wear for an interview.

ElijahGst1: if I happen to sign off in the next few minutes, please don't take it as me being rude. I have another engagement at 6:30

LynneW: You are creating an immediate impression that must then be backed up with substance.

LynneW: No problem Elijah.

LynneW: Questions or comments??

LynneW: Anyone?

MagunaJ: What do you mean by thinking about the ownership?

LynneW: I'm so glad you asked that question!!!

ScottStr: how do you get the potential employer to look at it?

LynneW: Since NCLB administrators have been struggling to find evidence of learning.

LynneW: Data that can be reported to the state and feds.

LynneW: Many schools have taken over computer labs with online testing and have taken over ownership of student e-portfolios.

LynneW: If a student doesn't "own" their own e-portfolio, their approach and their commitment to it will be very different.

LynneW: When admin takes them over, they simply become another check-off list to be completed.

LynneW: It rips the "soul" out of the student's ownership and expression of who they are as learners.

LynneW: Does that make sense?

GaryC: is that done with administrator rights access?

LynneW: Not necessarily.

ScottStr: they aren't as engaged as students

LynneW: It is done by admin determining that all portfolios will look the same, and will have the same specified content. That the portfolios will not be accessible to family or for student's needs.

MagunaJ: The schools are using the student-designed e-portfolios to send to the government

LynneW: Do you see how ownership is at the heart of e-portfolios?

GaryC: sure

MagunaJ: When it comes to using it with the students, yes

LynneW: They require elements in each portfolio and then generate data (numbers/percentages) that reflect favorably on the district.

LynneW: Now, assessment of student portfolios is very important.

LynneW: I recommend you use a rubric where you have labored over the language to

make each item extremely clear for student understanding.

LynneW: Let them have that rubric prior to their beginning. Help them include and refer back to your rubric throughout the creation process.

ElijahGst1 left the room (signed off).

LynneW: Include not only expectations for content, but navigation, images, sound files, video files, spelling, benchmarking content or state standards, etc.

LynneW: It is extremely powerful to hear a student's reflection on a piece of their artwork or a poem, etc. when it is recorded in their own voice.

LynneW: The same is true for professional portfolios.

LynneW: Any questions or comments? What else would you like me to address in the remaining time we have tonight?

MagunaJ: What to create it, for example, do we do it by creating a website?

LynneW: Depending on purpose and/or audience you can create a portfolio as a .pdf, PowerPoint, or all Word saved for Web.

GaryC: maybe how to draw someone in for professional purposes

ScottStr: how could they be used by my students for college needs besides the process?

LynneW: Maguna, I rarely create websites from scratch anymore (and I used to teach in a prof. web master program).

LynneW: I now use blogs because they are easier to set-up, include everything I need.

LynneW: Generally, they are either free or lower cost than a web site.

MagunaJ: For teaching jobs, blogs are acceptable?

LynneW: Gary, make it easy and very professional looking. Give someone your link and make it pop when they first see your page.

LynneW: Visual aesthetic is extremely important.

LynneW: Allow them an easy way to select from among your artifacts right away.

LynneW: Yes Maguna.

LynneW: You can set up a blog to look just like a web site.

MagunaJ: I have never created my own blog. Do you have the name of recommended blog service?

LynneW: Scott, I have my students create educational blogs for my ed tech courses. They then morph them into e-portfolios for job search, and then morph again as classroom web sites.

LynneW: I personally like a paid service provider Blog-City http://www.blog-city.com

LynneW: There is also edublogs.

LynneW: They are free and very good, particularly when you are just starting out.

LynneW: Only education blogs there.

LynneW: A couple of quick resources before we close.

MagunaJ: I am from California and I have not seen student e-portfolio being sent to the state just yet. Are all the states beginning to use student e-portfolio as learning evidence?

LynneW: I posted on the discussion board here, the address to sign-up for an international listserv for e-portfolios.

LynneW: I also posted a recent evaluation of vendors of e-portfolio software for education use.

LynneW: Additionally, I give you my link to my ed tech news and resources blog. You will see that it looks and acts just like a web site.

LynneW: CU-Online http://cuonline.blog-city.com

LynneW: Maguna, it has been a district by district, region by region decision.

MagunaJ: Thank you

LynneW: Thank you for coming today. Feel free to contact me, outside these sessions, if you have a need for resources or information.

MagunaJ: Thank you

LynneW: Enjoy your summer. I teach this summer so our next session will be in September.

ScottStr: thanks for an enlightening session

GaryC: Thanks a lot. It was very informative

BJB2: Thanks, Lynne.

LynneW: BJ please talk about the festival.

BJB2 . o O (Lynne is leading the Web 2.0 discussion in 1/2 hour)

BJB2: ahh...great!

BJB2: Tapped In Festival 2008 is July 23 and 24

BJB2: the theme is Beyond Conflict: Building Peaceful Communities

LynneW: Oh, I like that theme.

BJB2: those who participate in three festival events will receive a Certificate of Participation

LynneW: I have my grad students do this to have evidence of professional development going into their first job interviews.

LynneW: The certificates are very nice.

BJB2: excellent, Lynne!

BJB2: The festival webpage is at http://tappedin.org/tappedin/web/festival/

LynneW: I'm headed over to the other group room. Thanks for the great back-up BJ.

BJB2: my pleasure, Lynne.

LynneW: Wasn't that a nice session?

BJB2: sure was...the participants had some good input and questions

LynneW: That's what makes it nice. They did very well for being new.

BJB2 nods in agreement