



Choosing an e-Portfolio System for Multiple Uses and Multiple Users

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Thank you!

NU Educational Technology Center particularly Laurie Poklop



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About Northeastern

- Large, private, research university (about 12,000 UG)
- Tradition of strong, professional schools
- Was commuter school for all
- Now selective, residential college
- Increased influence of Arts & Science College



Dramatic changes over 20 years

- Rapid change to “smaller but better”
- Change in admission goal (2400 from 4000)
- Campus beautification (cars have disappeared)
- Faculty more and more committed to scholarship
- Repositioning is now secure - strong retention



Is anything the same?

- Commitment to Cooperative Education - “the little engine that could”
- Pressure from accreditation body (NEASC) for a core curriculum and assessment
- Desire to expand into other forms of “Experiential Learning”
- Finally - a new core curriculum (NU Core)



Why use e-Portfolios?

- Build tradition of student pride in work
- Integration of experiential and classroom learning
- New types of media and student projects
- Concern with “soft skills”
- Collection of artifacts for expert review using goals and rubrics



Why use OSP/Sakai?

- Powerful relational database
- Preference for open source - hoping for freedom from the development cycle which had proved so frustrating with other systems
- The real reason - “four to six weeks in a lab can save you an hour in the library”- G.C. Quarderer, Dow Chemical Co.



Some success with OSP/Sakai!

- With a great deal of effort from our EdTech Center we had satisfying success
- Using portfolios created by capstone students in two semesters we collected 600 artifacts
- Using a custom web-based system we could automate the delivery of artifacts to reviewers as well
- And then they broke it! A new version of the software required repeating the work



Next steps

- Senior leadership team rather suddenly communicated desire for a campus-wide e-portfolio system
- With the support of the Vice-Provost for Undergraduate Studies we decided it was time to spend the “hour in the library”



Calling all projects

- We cast a wide net for all those with portfolio projects - electronic and paper-based
- Representatives from many areas including IS (Information Services), library, registrar
- Reviewed all the uses and requirements *before* looking at products



What can e-Portfolio systems do?

- **Collect:** a repository for students to collect and organize digital artifacts
- **Reflect:** ePortfolios often include student reflection of the meaning of their work, integrating individual artifacts into a broader understanding of their learning.
- **Display:** systems enable instructors to define templates for the display of work; students control who has access to specific presentations of their work.
- **Assess:** some systems allow linking artifacts and reflections to assessment rubrics and professional criteria, then aggregate assessment results for data analysis.



Use Scenarios

- Enhanced resumes
- Open Structure Portfolio
- Developmental Completion of Program
- Representational Portfolio
- Visual Showcase
- Curriculum Assessment



What is most important?

- Many products can handle all scenarios
- Strong preference for a hosted product
- Ease of use and support
- Laurie Poklop, curriculum developer from EdTech, tried to replicate projects with different products
- TaskStream worked best for us
- <https://www.taskstream.com/>



Our pilots in progress

- Below is a link to a website that describes the pilot projects in progress
- http://www.edtech.neu.edu/interactive_tools/eportfolios/pilot_projects/



Some still worth watching

- OSP/Sakai
- Epsilen
- Digication



Why I am satisfied and hopeful

- We credited the grassroots faculty development and made sure we could support their needs
- We (meaning Laurie) tested many products trying to replicate projects
- We worked with IS but did not let them dominate
- I think it will work if TaskStream can really support students and faculty so that we do not have to create another level of support



Sample “Enhanced” Resume

- Below is a link to a sample resume with attachments created with TaskStream (please note that all information is fictitious)
- <http://www.taskstream.com/ts/porter88/SampleLifeSciencesResume.html>