

Ethical Portfolios: Supporting Identities & Values

Simon Grant
independent consultant

Anna Grant
Research Associate, University of Bristol

Gap in e-portfolio literature

- What if the 'e' in e-portfolio were 'ethical'?
- Our reasoning:
 - E-p used to present one's identity to others
 - Values are a central component of identity
 - Values ought to feature in e-p literature
- We seek to motivate the e-p community to engage with values & ethics
- We set out an "ethical portfolio" approach

Ethics & e-portfolios: Dimensions

- What ethics related information is, or could be, gathered?
 - Information about the values of: Individuals, Groups, Communities, Organisations
 - Possible “ethical profiles” of each
- What benefits of using this information?
 - Can be to group, community, organisation...
 - We focus on individual for this presentation

Scenario

- To bring the concept to life...
- Example from “Good Work” (Gardner, Csikszentmihalyi & Damon, 2001, p.240)
- Central theme: “ethical development”
- Developing the parts that normal careers advice doesn't reach

Personal ethical trajectory

- Chance involvement in several contexts
 - Family, friends, relations, school, ..., work, ...
 - Individual grows into roles in each context
 - Acceptable conduct; community values
- Potential conflicts in roles and values
 - Separate (Goffman) or consolidate (Jourard)?
 - Provoking awareness of values ...
- Development towards “moral agency”

One or multiple identities

- Separate (*a la* Goffman)
 - Different identities for different contexts
 - Manage context/value/identity boundaries
- Consolidate (*a la* Jourard)
 - Clarify your real self across contexts
 - Keep track of values and conflicts
- Spectrum? Cross-over?
- Can e-portfolio tools help?

Ethical development process 1

- Record experiences (as in much PDP)
- Reflect on those experiences
 - This time from an ethical perspective
 - Ethics-related prompting, e.g.
 - Did you admire something someone did?
 - Did you feel guilty about something?
 - Did someone approve or disapprove?
 - Did someone do something wrong?

Ethical development process 2

- Analyse and distinguish contexts
 - Makes separate values much clearer
- Analyse values in experiences by context
- Discern patterns of good and bad
- Experience a shift in ethical profile
- Reflect also on the experiences of others

E-portfolio model 1

- Tool needs to track those **contexts**
 - This will be a new requirement for e-p
- Need a framework for values similar to frameworks of competence
 - Progress needed even for competence
- But this is highly sensitive personal information – how to keep safe?

E-portfolio model 2

- Keep raw information wherever it is
 - Servers across the web – as in Web 2.0
 - Social software, blogs, repositories, ...
- Private topic maps to make connections
 - Values topics (refer to common definitions)
 - Contexts for identities (personally unique)
 - To be used by other e-portfolio related tools
 - Easily moved or withdrawn

Further work

- More scenarios from all stations in life
 - Clarify the importance of ethical development beyond current PDP and careers advice
- Link to potentially related work
 - Moral education; life coaching
 - Other uses of ethical profiles (shopping etc.)
- Groups and their representation of values and interest topics – a vital part of jigsaw

Contact us

- Much of this is new work
- We'd like to keep in touch with anyone else taking the area forward
- There may be many papers to write and projects to undertake
- If you lose contact, google
 - Anna "Simon Grant"
- Thank you! Kiitos! Merci! Grazie!