



Electronic Portfolios – the Newcastle experience

Dr Tony McDonald,
project manager, FDTL-4 ePortfolios project

Simon Cotterill
Senior project officer, FDTL-4 ePortfolios project

“Managed Environments for
Portfolio-based Reflective Learning”

Outline

- ePortfolios – FDTL-4 project
- The Project
- Progress so far
- Demonstration
- Future plans
- What we would like to do

ePortfolios – FDTL-4 Project

- The project consortium:
 - Newcastle University (lead site), Leeds University
 - Sheffield University, Dundee University (for consultancy)
- 3 years funding (£250k).
- Developing Web based portfolios to support reflective approaches for evidencing the attainment of programme outcomes in undergraduate Medicine.
- Closely integrated with on-line curricula and study guides to become an integral component of managed learning environments for Medicine.

Two types of ePortfolio

Generic ePortfolio

Stand-alone
Portfolio framework

Customisation:

- Component selection
- Outcomes / skills sets
- Terminology

MBBS ePortfolio

Integrated into the
VLE

Piloting in 2003/4:

- Phase 1 reflective diary
- Stage 3 rotation in Child Health
- Stage 4 placements (SSCs)

Progress so far

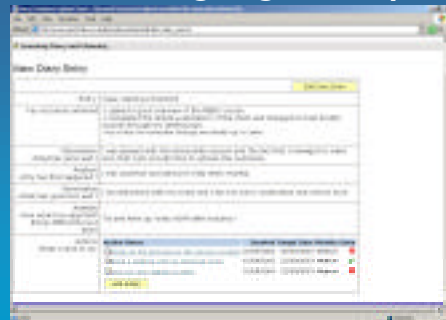
- ePortfolio within Newcastle Medical VLE
- Standalone ePortfolios built and customised
- ePortfolio built at Sheffield
- ePortfolio concepts in place at Leeds
 - Different VLE from Newcastle and Sheffield – Bodington system
- An online demo is available at the project website

Demonstration

Demo site available



Learning log – diary



Entries linked to outcomes



Various output formats



Many tools available – eg



CV output



Current research and evaluation strategies

- – Questionnaires (before and after using the ePortfolio)
 - change in awareness of intended learning outcomes?
 - factors influencing use of the ePortfolio:
 - – Continuing Learning Inventory (Oddi, 1986)
 - – prior reflective practice
 - – attitudes to computers in education
 - – demographic data
 - attitudes and perceptions of using the electronic portfolio
 - perception of impact of using the electronic portfolio
 - evaluation of technical features and 'usability'
- – Focus groups
- – Supervisors' Questionnaire (random sample)

Current research and evaluation strategies (cont.)

- – Focus groups
- – Questionnaire

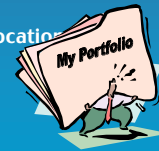
- – Piloting
- – Structured interviews

Future plans

- Integrate with Blackboard V6
- Interoperability – using UK Learner Profile and other IMS specifications
- Generic ePortfolio sites
 - Work with UC Davis
 - ePortfolios for Dentistry
 - Biosciences at Newcastle
 - Post-graduate medicine
- Research and Evaluation studies
- More 'custom' sites
 - For Newcastle
 - And other services for partners

10 value added features of an online approach to portfolios

- Highly customisable
- Multi-purpose eg. formative & summative = reduced duplication
- Multiple structures / views
- Easier cross-referencing
- Sharable
- Secure access from a range of locations
- Transportable
- Searchable
- Reduced administration
- Not left on the bus !



Thanks!

- Dr Tony McDonald
 - Tony.mcdonald@ncl.ac.uk
- Simon Cotterill (senior project officer)
 - Simon.cotterill@ncl.ac.uk
- Demo site
 - <http://www.eportfolios.ac.uk/demo>