

A Showcase: Electronic Portfolio System

John Ronghua Ouyang
Bagwell College of Education
Kennesaw State University, USA
rouyang@kennesaw.edu

Karen Andrews
Career Service Office
Kennesaw State University, USA
kandrews@kennesaw.edu

Kelly Hines
Career Service Office
Kennesaw State University, USA
khines@kennesaw.edu

Abstract: Electronic portfolio system designed and developed by the Office of Career Services at Kennesaw State University is featured with friendly use, customized setup, well-designed organization, strengthened compatibility, and skill-overview matrix. With a year of pilot study, the system is adopted in academic courses across disciplines and campus. This showcase is to demonstrate the system's unique functions and display samples of online portfolio at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

To track students' learning and provide better service for graduates, the Office of Career Services at Kennesaw State University has designed and developed an electronic portfolio system. What is electronic portfolio? Campbell and others (2001) defines the portfolio is an organized, goal-driven documentation of one's professional growth and achieved competence in the complex teaching for the in-service teachers. According to the definition of European Institute for E-learning (2003), "An e-portfolio is an extended, dynamic CV, establishing links to an online database, which contains personal and professional achievements, team results, references and all relevant evidence of competence obtained in the course of work and learning. It provides an opportunity to reflect on one's own professional practice and to share the lessons learned with others."

Research indicates that academic faculty's involvement and support are critical to the success of portfolio approach (Young, 2002). Therefore, The system is piloted in the academic programs and served as a comprehensive assessment of students' learning achievement. Based on the input of academic faculty during the pilot study, the E-portfolio platform designer and system developer re-inspected the requirements, updated the functionalities, and polished the user interface.

The E-portfolio system at Kennesaw State University is a web-based online portfolio system. The latest version of E-portfolio system at KSU consists of learning, setting up, designing/editing, viewing, sharing, and helping/supporting modules. Learning module provides students with the basic knowledge and understanding of the system, including the understanding of copyrights and related issues. Setting up module is to create a content table or portfolio tabs so that students can be guided to build up their own customized e-portfolios. Designing/editing module lets students submit artifacts or evidences under each content label. It provides functions of creating and updating new topics, adding and removing evidences in various file formats, and linking online resources to support the portfolio. Viewing module has disabled the editing function, provides a read-only online portfolio that can be viewed by the owner. Sharing module allows students to send a link to professors or other readers to review his or her portfolio online.

Helping/supporting module is the function of communication between students and system administrator. Technical support will be provided if there is a need. The current system is featured with: friendly use, customized setup, well-designed organization, strengthened compatibility, and a comprehensive overview matrix.

The electronic portfolio system of Kennesaw State University is to be introduced within this showcase. The following functions are to be exhibited and samples of electronic portfolios will be demonstrated.

- Admin function: Presenter will introduce how this system is managed and secure guaranteed.
- Setup function: Presenter will demonstrate how to setup portfolio tabs (categories) and different virtual portfolio formats.
- Edit/Build function: Presenter will present the function of building an electronic portfolio and show its editing features.
- View function: With view functions, students can view their own portfolio anytime, during the process of building the portfolio or after the portfolio is updated.
- Share function: Presenter will show the sharing link via regular email.
- Online support: Presenter will introduce how the Office of Career Services at Kennesaw State University provide orientation and support to academic faculty and students.
- Samples of electronic portfolio of both undergraduate and graduate students are to be demonstrated.

References:

Campbell, D. and others. (2001). *How to develop a professional portfolio: A manual for teachers* (2nd ed.). Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

European Institute of Learning. (2003). *The E-portfolio in action*. [online]
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