ePortfolio?

An **electronic portfolio**, also known as an **ePortfolio** or **digital portfolio**, is a collection of electronic evidence assembled and managed by a user, usually on the Web. Such electronic evidence may include inputted text, electronic files, images, multimedia, blog entries, and hyperlinks. ePortfolios are both demonstrations of the user's abilities and platforms for self-expression, and, if they are online, they can be maintained dynamically over time. Some ePortfolio applications permit varying degrees of audience access, so the same portfolio might be used for multiple purposes. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electronic_portfolio

Benefits and Uses

ePortfolios offer many benefits for **learners** as they seek to create and reflect on life experiences.

- Personal knowledge management
- History of development and growth
- Planning/goal setting tool
- Assist learners in making connections between learning experiences (this may include formal and informal learning).
- Provide the elements needed to assist learners in planning future learning needs based on previous successes and failures.
- Personal control of learning history (as compared to organizations controlling learner history).

Components

ePortfolios can include a wide range of information:

- Personal information
- Education history
- Recognition – awards and certificates
- Reflective comments
- Coursework – assignment, projects
- Instructor comments
- Employer comments
- Learning and Career Goals and plans
- Personal values and interests
- Presentations, papers
- Personal activities – volunteer work, professional development, interests

All entries should have a purpose – they should demonstrate a skill, an attribute, and learning acquired from experience.

Process of ePortfolio Creation

1. Create an account then collect and upload items for your portfolio
2. Select items best able to demonstrate your competence
3. Connect various aspects of your life – personal, learning, work, and community

Free ePortfolio Options

Mahara is an open source e-portfolio system with a flexible display framework. Mahara, meaning 'think' or 'thought' in Te Reo Māori, is user centred environment with a permissions framework that enables different views of an e-portfolio to be easily managed. Mahara also features a weblog, resume builder and social networking system, connecting users and creating online learner communities.

Skillsbook^{TM} is an open source, practical and interactive skills e-portfolio. Skillsbook is also a great way to build recognition of prior learning evidence portfolio against training packages.   The Skillsbook e-portfolio is flexible; students can create web pages, photo galleries, video libraries and much more. Students and teachers choose the format and with who to share their e-portfolios.

FolioSpaces was established to allow users to maintain control of their hosting. If you move from one education institution to another, change employment, or have varied hobbies or interests, FolioSpaces is your personal space; it moves with you.