

Tips for Digital Portfolios

Technology-based portfolios can be a motivating and authentic way for students to assess their own learning and set goals. With adequate technology equipment and support, portfolios also can be shared and stored easily.

Guidelines

A few tips can help you be successful using digital portfolios with your students.

- Determine the purpose of your students' digital portfolios and establish the criteria that will be used for assessment.
- Consider how your classroom structure and your instructional strategies can support the kinds of thinking necessary for successful portfolio assessment. Are your students accustomed to reflecting and goal setting? What kinds of artifacts do students produce that they might include?
- Inventory your technology resources to choose an appropriate format. Take into consideration:
 - Computer access
 - Connectivity
 - Digital cameras
 - Scanners
- Locate other teachers who are using digital portfolios, and discuss how you might coordinate or share resources.
- Work with your technology coordinator to address issues such as storage and security.
- Investigate possible formats and resources. The following information can be helpful when planning to implement digital portfolios.

[Selecting the Software and Approach to Creating an Electronic Portfolio](#)—An comprehensive article summarizing what to consider when choosing portfolio software.

- Word processing software
- Multimedia presentation software
- Web 2.0 tools, such as wikis, blogs, or online documents
- Specialized software
- Make contributing to the portfolio an important and routine learning activity.

Resources

Digital Portfolios: Fact or Fashion

www.aare.edu.au/02pap/woo02363.htm

An academic article describing the results of a research study on the learning benefits of digital portfolios.

Electronic Portfolios in the K–12 Classroom

www.educationworld.com/a_tech/tech/tech111.shtml

An easy-to-read article on the Education World* Web site that discusses a variety of topics related to digital portfolios.

Electronicportfolios.org

<http://electronicportfolios.org/>

A comprehensive resource with links, articles, presentations, and examples of digital portfolios.

Smart Classroom Bytes: Learning with Digital Portfolios

<http://education.qld.gov.au/smartclassrooms/strategy/sc-bytes.html>

Scroll down the page to find a newsletter for teachers and principals that provides a nice overview of the use of digital portfolios.