

:: ePortfolio Pilot Platforms Project ::

Project Scope and Overview

The JISC RSC West Midlands would like to provide the use of a suite of Open Source¹ e-learning platforms that can be utilised to pilot a wide range of eportfolio related activities². The JISC RSC West Midlands have set up five “eportfolio” platforms on their own servers. These learning platforms have been chosen for their pedigree, currency, and compatibility with existing IT infrastructures. Full eportfolio platforms details are given below.

These “eportfolio platforms” will be made available to supported learning providers for approximately six months. In return, each learning provider will complete a simple evaluation and short report highlighting the benefits/shortfalls of each platform piloted. We are also interested in comments on the entire pilot process. Collated details will be published on the RSC West Midlands Wiki², our eportfolio community of Practice³, or included in LSIS Excellence Gateway e-case studies⁴. Pertinent evaluation information will be shared with other learning providers (locally and nationally) to help with piloting or evaluation of eportfolio platforms. Applicants can choose to pilot one, two, or all of these platforms simultaneously. It is advised that any teaching staff embarking upon a pilot should enlist the assistance of their IT and/or e-learning support to help manage the pilots⁵. We insist that this agreement is approved by a line manager which will ensure pilot support.

RSC hosted eportfolio pilot platforms;

- ELGG: <http://elgg.org/>
- Wordpress: <http://wordpress.org/>
- Mahoodle: <http://tdm.info/train/mahoodle.html>
- Mahara: <http://mahara.org/>
- Moodle: (including specialist ILP blocks) <http://moodle.org/>

RSC WM recommends a selection of commercial eportfolio platforms as alternatives;

- eFolio: <http://efoliointheuk.blogspot.com/>
- PebblePad: <http://www.pebblepad.co.uk/>
- Taskstream: <http://www.taskstream.com/>
- Onefile: <http://www1.onefile.co.uk/>
- My Knowledge map: <http://www.myknowledgemap.com/>
- Axia HE Progress: <http://marketing.axiainteractive.net/heprogressnow.html>

For a more comprehensive list of eportfolio platforms available, please access the USA wiki page⁶. A recent survey conducted in Europe compares commercial against Open Source eportfolios⁷, which may help support eportfolio evaluation.

Footnotes

1. Open Source: <http://www.oss-watch.ac.uk/>
2. Eportfolio activities: <http://wiki.rscwmsystems.org.uk/index.php/Eportfolios>
3. JISC RSC WM Community of Practice : <http://groups.google.co.uk/group/rscmeq?hl=en>
4. LSIS Excellence Gateway e-case studies: <http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/page.aspx?o=casestudies>
5. JISC eportfolio pilot studies: <http://www.jiscinfonet.ac.uk/e-portfolios>
6. eportfolio tools and technologies: <http://bit.ly/EPAC-folio-list>
7. Recent eportfolio survey: <http://kev-brace.blogspot.com/2009/10/eportfolio-evaluation-survey.html>

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By signing this, we agree to the following terms and conditions;

1. These eportfolio platform(s) hosted by JISC RSC WM is for your organisation only, to use for teaching and learning; for example, promoting reflective writing/blogging, creating a local social network of blogs, recording achievements, or developing staff skills and experimenting with small groups of learners.
2. From the date of this agreement you will have access to your platform(s) until the end of the academic year 2010. All platforms will be closed as of July 31st 2010. Any data left on the servers will be deleted after this date.
3. Please be guarded about the storage of personal/learner data. It is the responsibility of the project participants to seek all permissions, and ensure sensitive data is **NOT** used during the project. RSC WM is **NOT** responsible for the loss of learner data during these pilots, although we will take every reasonable precaution to ensure data security.
4. All project participants are advised to ensure respective end user permissions have been sought to take part in proposed trials and pilot projects. This agreement is between RSC supported organisations, the pilot originator, and authorising manager.
5. These eportfolios should not be used for commercial or promotional purposes.
6. JISC RSC WM are providing hosting options only for the duration of this project, we will however offer our usual RSC technical support (9 am – 5pm weekdays), regarding systems configuration. Queries regarding the specific use of each platform should be directed to local and national support networks. JISC RSC WM will be able to provide limited information regarding resources and third parties that can provide end user training or information – see also appendix 1.
7. At the end of your pilot stage, the JISC RSC West Midlands requests a short, written report supporting an evaluation matrix that can be shared with others. A typical evaluation matrix is given in appendix 1. If you would like to create your own evaluation criteria, links to useful evaluation resources are provided in appendix 1.
8. JISC RSC West Midlands reserves the right to rescind access to any eportfolio platforms if any of the above conditions are not followed. Please return this agreement signed and dated by **February 21st 2010**, to begin your pilots.

Name of Organisation

Your Name (and position)

Your Signature Date.....

Signature of pilot approver/manager Date.....

Appendix 1

Typical evaluation matrix

Name of project and institution								
Purpose /Context	Process	Information capture	Information retrieval	Planning	Reflection	Feedback	Collaboration	Presentation
Assessment								
Personal Development Planning/ Continuing Professional Development								
Work Based Learning/ Employment								
Transition/ Application								
Other purpose								

Sources of information regarding e-learning evaluation & criteria:

<http://electronicportfolios.org/blog/2009/12/motivation-and-selecting-eportfolio.html>

<http://kev-brace.blogspot.com/2009/11/eportfolio-book-review.html>

<http://edtechpd.blogspot.com/2008/11/eportfolios-finding-tool.html>

http://www.wlecentre.ac.uk/cms/files/occasionalpapers/op5_eportfolios_models_and_implementation.pdf

http://www.wlecentre.ac.uk/cms/files/occasionalpapers/evaluation_of_online_courses_25th.pdf

<http://edtechpd.blogspot.com/2008/10/eportfolios-where-to-start.html>

<http://www.cegnet.co.uk/files/CEGNET0001/resources/777.doc> :Getting what you want: e-portfolios 14-19

<http://www.qmu.ac.uk/eportfolio/documents/finalreportqmu2007.pdf>

http://www.franklin-consulting.co.uk/LinkedDocuments/framework_for_evaluation.doc

<http://www.businessballs.com/kirkpatricklearningevaluationmodel.htm>

RSC WM supported resources and contacts covering eportfolio related topics:

- <http://delicious.com/deliboy/e-portfolio> (*shared web links*)
- <http://kev-brace.blogspot.com/search/label/eportfolio> (*regular blog posts*)
- <http://wiki.rscwmsystems.org.uk/index.php/Eportfolios> (*eportfolio effective practice*)
- <http://groups.google.co.uk/group/rscmeg?hl=en> (*JISC RSC WM Community of Practice*)
- Next ePortfolio forum: April 27th, central Birmingham covering CPD and PDP. More details to follow, plus booking at URL: <http://info.rsc-wm.ac.uk/events/default.asp>