

# Motivating Low Level Learners: the use of electronic portfolios.

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# Some questions for discussion

- What is an e-portfolio?
- What is your experience of e-portfolios - when/where have you used them?
- Are they motivating for learners?  
Why/Why not?
- [https://www.ole.bris.ac.uk/webapps/bbcms/execute/portfolio/previewPortfolio?prtfl\\_id= 98 1&prtfl\\_template\\_id=&dispatch=previewPage&portfolio\\_page\\_id= 151 1&passId=&password=](https://www.ole.bris.ac.uk/webapps/bbcms/execute/portfolio/previewPortfolio?prtfl_id= 98 1&prtfl_template_id=&dispatch=previewPage&portfolio_page_id= 151 1&passId=&password=)

# CONTEXT

- International Foundation Programme
- One academic year
- 120 credit points
- Standard EAP variant
- 6 units
  - EFL1 & **EAS1**
  - EFL2 & **EAS2**
  - ESP1 & ESP2

# CONTEXT - LEARNERS

IELTS 4.5-5.5

9 learners

Mixed UG / PG

UG:

Chemical Engineering,  
Economics and Finance

PG:

Management,  
Management +  
Engineering, Deaf Studies,  
Special Needs Education,  
Film Studies

Multicultural Backgrounds:

Thai, Chinese, Saudi Arabian, Japanese

# CONTEXT – EAS1

- Academic Writing
- AWL
- (Academic Reading)
- (Reflections on Learning)

# ASSESSMENT

- **Exam** (Reading/Writing/AWL) – 60%
- **Portfolio** – 40%
  - 4 x written assignments
  - AWL learning records
  - (Feedback and reflection on the writing process)

# PROBLEM: (paper portfolios)

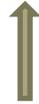
## Student Participation

- Late Assignments
- Lack of Engagement with process
- Responding to feedback
- Quality of reflections on learning process – when were they completed?

## Tutor

- Time spent chasing drafts
- Time spent checking portfolio
- Storage and Portability

# SOLUTION: E-portfolios

- Student reflections / teacher feedback = improved dialogue = as they upload
- Quality / Quantity of reflection 
- Easier to track contributions
- Easier to show good samples to other students = motivating
- No storage problem
- Students can keep and use in the future – ongoing, developmental record
- Link to on-line learning environment  
 Awareness of online resources

# CONVENIENCE

- “It’s very convenient because I needn’t to print out my essays and can submit them even though I am at a large distance from university.”
- “I think the e-portfolio is more convenient than the traditional portfolio. I can check e-portfolio at any place only needing a computer and Internet. And it was easy to use. “

# SHARING

- Of course e-portfolio because it is easier, quicker, save your time , save your paper and you can add any further information in it without distorts your paper. Also as i said i can refer to my e-portfolio any time and share it with other students who can found it useful.”
- “I prefer using e-portfolio because it has the system to save information or tasks that students sent to teachers and easy to reply their feedback too.”
- “When i come back to my job i will transfer this idea to them and encourage my students to use it to save their information or their work + time.”

# DISADVANTAGE?

- I prefer using an e-portfolio because sometimes a paper-based portfolio is heavy because it has many course papers. I don't need to take my paper-based portfolio everyday at the end of the term.
- However, sometimes I liked the paper-based portfolio as I could feel my hard working when I saw the heavy portfolio. It was satisfied.

# CHANGING ATTITUDES

- ““It is very useful for me because it saves my work and i can refer to it any time even after many years. Paper can be loosed or destroyed for many reasons. At the begging it was quite difficult to use e-portfolio but after i use it many times i feel more confident.”
- “I, personally, want to use a paper-based portfolio because I’m not good at computers and using computers in English is more difficult. (Also, when I applied for MA course of Bristol University, it was difficult for me to do so because the applications were basically on-line. Therefore, I think that it may be necessary for students to get used to using IT skills, so this might not be a good reason.)”

# OVER TO YOU

- Advantages?
- Disadvantages?
- Student role / Teacher role
  
- Other E-solutions?