What is an electronic portfolio?

- Collection of work?
- Performance assessment?
- Learning management system?
- Archive of achievement?
- Assessment management system?
- Personal or cultural story?
- Institutional requirement?
- Large scale assessment documentation?

What are people looking for?

- Individual - a meaningful image
- Teacher - evidence of achievement
- Employer - a record of experience

These purposes change *along with* as well as *among* various audiences...and this can lead to dilemmas!

Activity Theory & e-Portfolios

Leontev (1896 – 1934); (Engeström, Miettinen & Punamäki, 1998)
3D Model Framework

(Deitz, 1994; Carney, 2002; Gibson & Barrett, 2003)

3D Decisions & Dilemmas “Space”

Dilemma Type:
- Media
- Ownership
- Focus

Audience Type:
- Public
- Trusted Others
- Personal

Reflective Purpose Type:
- Map, Mirror, Sonnet

Reflective Purposes

- Sonnet

...conceptualizing one’s knowledge and practice in artistic and metaphorical terms within an accepted structure of professional practice

Sonnet Questions

- Does an appropriate public recognize the portfolio’s structure? Do they “own” the validity of the structure as a professional context for a representation of teaching?
Reflective Purposes

- Mirror
  ...focuses self-reflection, which is central to metacognition and thus learning itself

Mirror Questions

- Does the choice of media enhance creativity and assist in the realization of the intentions of the learner?

Reflective Purposes

- Map
  ...demonstrates the linkages of knowledge and ability in relation to external principles

Map Questions

- Does the portfolio contain a complete and sufficient linking to standards or external referents for a particular purpose?
Audience Type

- Personal
  ...Allows us to get distance from artifacts we've made, to encounter our intentions in creating them and our satisfaction in meeting our intentions

Personal Questions

- Does the structure of the portfolio reveal something about the learner?
- Does the portfolio show how its parts are connected and how they came to be through stages of development?

Audience Type

- Trusted Others
  ...Advisors help us make sense of our work, challenge us to improve to meet higher professional standards, and recognize us when we do

Advisor Questions

- Do advisors see clear connections to their professional culture and to the individual?
- Can advisors trace their edits and influence in the portfolio?
Audience Type

- Public
  ...Teacher education institutions want proof of impact. Academic program reviewers want to inspect & validate. Future employers look to make selection decisions. Researchers look for patterns and evidence.

Public Questions

- Does the portfolio provide an image of a well-prepared teacher?
- Does the public see an image of a professional?
- Does the public see ways in which investment in this individual has or will pay off to others?

Mediation Dilemmas

- Affordances
  ...As we interact with and express ourselves through the new media, it acts on us in a reciprocal fashion, altering what is known (epistemology) and how we find out what we can know (methodology).

Mediation Questions

- Does the use of media enhance assessment and feedback on the portfolio?
- Does the use of media reflect best professional practice?
- Does the use of media enhance connections to standards and external validity?
Ownership Dilemmas

- **Ownership**
  ...Where the physical image rests – on a server, on a CD, on a web site - it is possible to have several owners in this sense, who have (or not) access to edit or select sub sections for alternative representations.

Ownership Questions

- Are portfolio statements created by the learner and for the learner’s benefit?
- Does the learner have the power to create and present any kind of representation?
- Can the learner change the meanings of this collection at anytime?

Focus Dilemmas

- **Focus**
  ...Concentrates and unifies the intention of the electronic portfolio as an archival record or artifact of activity with content, theme and the ends and means of representation.

Focus Questions

- Is there a primary message about or image of the learner?
- Does the portfolio contain a complete and sufficient linking to standards for graduation?
- Is it suitable for gaining employment?
YOUR Decision & Dilemma Path

Dilemma Type:
- Media
- Ownership
- Focus

Reflective Purpose Type:
- Map
- Mirror
- Sonnet

Audience Type:
- Public
- Trusted Others
- Personal

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