THE EPORTFOLIO PROJECT UPDATE

Who is involved?

This project is a collaboration between the Faculties of Health and Behavioural Sciences (HaBS), Humanities and Social Sciences (HaSS) and Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (M+BS); with full support from the Information Technology Services, Teaching and Learning Support (ITS TLS) team.

Twelve Schools were consulted from across HaBS, HaSS and M+BS faculty and the UQ Advantage Office. The Schools were Dentistry, Pharmacy, Psychology, Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work, Communication and Arts, Education, Historical and Philosophical Inquiry, Social Science, Public Health and Medicine. The project is governed by a Steering Committee with representatives from the collaborating faculties, Student Affairs Division, the UQ Advantage Office and ITS.

How is the project funded?

The project was funded by the Technology Enhanced Learning Grants in 2014.

What are the aims of the project?

The project aims to investigate and address the need for a sustainable ePortfolio solution. An ePortfolio is a technological tool used to record, assess and archive the artifacts of learning and reflection for individual students. As such, an eportfolio has the potential to show professional and personal growth, exemplify evidence-based practice and provide a planning space for future professional development needs and experiences (Hallam et al 2008). The initial reason for undertaking this project was to support our schools in work-integrated learning (placements/field work), however, an ePortfolio has many uses that extend beyond this purpose.

The project will undertake:

- detailed documentation of the existing student placement processes (administrative and pedagogical) to identify functional requirements
- evaluation of ePortfolio technology against the identified requirements
- establish a small-scaled test environment to enable users to experience and provide feedback on the technology

What has happened so far?

Two of the three project aims above have been achieved. A detailed documentation of business processes led to the development of very specific functional requirements for the ePortfolio solution.

A robust selection process was undertaken to identify three off-the-shelf products to meet most or all of the identified requirements. The three product vendors are now submitting tender documents for selection of the final product.

What still needs to happen?

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<tr>
<td>Tender document release to vendors</td>
<td>Part of tender process: Vendor product presentations 27 &amp; 28 July</td>
<td>Introductory workshops incorporating user feedback to assist in product selection in August 2015</td>
<td>Technical evaluation of the products by ITS</td>
<td>Final recommendation by the Steering Committee in September</td>
<td>Product acquisition</td>
<td>Product system configuration and integration</td>
<td>Small-scale live pilot</td>
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Further information

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