

Flourish Project

e-Portfolios for Starters Animation – University of Cumbria

Meet Sandra, she's a busy academic at the University of Happytown. She knows how important it is to focus on her continuing professional development but it isn't very easy for her. She needs some space where she can organise and investigate the evidence of her development. There are so many things that Sandra needs help with

Problem 1

00.23 Sandra has evidence of how she has met her professional body's competencies in a Work folder on her pen drive. Her only way of sharing the evidence with her mentor is to print off the information which is both fiddly and bad for the environment.

Problem 2

00.37 Sandra has some great notes from the really interesting conference she attended two months ago. She wants to share these with a colleague from the University of Gladsville, they want to apply for a funding bid together but the notes are still in the conference bag under her desk.

Problem 3

00.51 The conference notes would also be good evidence for staff development that she could mention in her appraisal but she doesn't know how to combine these notes with the paper-based system.

Problem 4

01.00 Sandra is designing a new module and has scribbled down reflections and thoughts on scrap paper. She would like to use them as evidence of her own learning for a teaching qualification she is studying for.

Problem 5

01.12 Sandra has been producing podcasts and would really like to have space to keep her audio files and her notes about them in one place.

01.20 So, Sandra needs something that can help her:

Keep track of her work

Share information with peers

Showcase her teaching activities

And a space where she can store her reflections about her teaching journey

Well, luckily for Sandra, the University of Happytown has decided to buy each of their staff an e-portfolio.

An e-portfolio is an easily accessible online area where you can store all of the things that are important to your CPD and career development. E-Portfolios are password-protected so you can control who is able to see which parts of your work and for how long. In your e-portfolio you can:

- keep all your word documents and when you want to share the information with others all you need to do is send a link to your portfolio, the other people looking at your work can add comments and you can get feedback.
- Keep your appraisal and your CV on your e-portfolio with links to evidence websites and other documents. You can easily share them with your mentor and employers.
- Store audio and other file formats in your e-portfolio and comment on them
- Write a blog, even if you don't share it with anyone the process of writing a blog can be very useful in reflecting on ideas and organising your thoughts.

2.24 Sandra loves her e-portfolio, she writes her blog most days and is currently using her e-portfolio to work with her Gladsville University colleague to write her funding bid.

2.33 Sandra has the space to work on her personal development and her CPD and now that Sandra's development evidence is easily and professionally displayed in her e-portfolio it is easy to see her achievements and goals.