

## **Blossom Project Interviews**

### **Stimulus**

Neil Currant

Hi My name is Neil Currant. I'm currently project officer, soon to be e-portfolio lecturer at the University of Bradford. And we've been using the PebblePad e-portfolio system, and we've just entered our second year of using it.

The main reason for using e-portfolios for CPD would be to, we had the system for students, we had it for teaching and learning, we wanted to roll it out in as many different ways as possible. So really it was a case of seeing if we could do it.

Susi Peacock

My name is Susi Peacock and I work at Queen Margaret University Edinburgh and I'm a senior lecturer for e-learning. The e-portfolio system that we use is PebblePad- we've used it now for about 3 years.

We started using e-portfolios at Queen Margaret because we were part of the "R" project. This is a Scottish funding council project whereby people exploring the use of e-portfolios for learning and teaching and PDP and what happened is that we now have lots of people who have started to use it in the learning environment. Some of them are also using it for their own PDP and some of them are using it for CPD as well.

David Eddy

I'm David Eddy, I have two hats I guess at the University. I'm course leader for an MSc in Medi- psychology and I'm also a teaching fellow for distance learning within the faculty itself. We're using the PebblePad e-portfolio system and we've been using that for just under 3 years now.

The main stimulus for using for staff CPD has been in team meetings we've talked about that we've spent a lot of time embedding PebblePad and e-portfolios within our undergraduate and postgraduate courses, that we felt from a staff credibility point of view seemed strange that we might actually not be using it. For our CPD when we're encouraging students to do that and we're training students to do that CPD as well. So that was one of the arguments in terms of why we started to start using it for staff CPD.

The second one is, we had an incentive because of our staff group, although we work in education we're still members of professional and statutory bodies. Because we are all therapy radiographers by background so we have professional and statutory body requirements. So that's a driver as well and because as a course team we deliver a lot of e-learning distance learning courses. it seems a natural fit that we should use e-portfolio for staff CPD.

The other thing that made us think about moving down this route as well is that the University at the moment is planning to introduce a professional development framework for staff and the use of this e-portfolio would obviously fit nicely within that remit. And kind of looking forward we're also looking at ways in which we can integrate staff CPD with the quality and validation mechanisms that we have so that staff will see things like where you review a module and you do a module evaluation that they will actually see that as CPD activity so it wouldn't just fulfil quality requirements but they would utilise it perhaps to evidence CPD as well.

Phil Vincent

I'm Phil Vincent and I'm the IT staff development office at York St. John University. And we are currently piloting the PebblePad e-portfolio system.

The stimulus or interest for using PebblePad to record CPD activity really is based around professionalizing our current system our current method of recording and feeding back CPD taking place. We would like to more closely monitor and review current activity and where appropriate share CPD activity cross institution. So allowing members of staff to partake in CPD activity and come back and feed back as to what it is they've done and the attendance of conferences events and things like that. We would also like to gain an insight into the types of CPD that's going on, and identify possible trends if there are any, we would like to formalise the process so that we get a sort of return on investment in the institution. So staff come back and feedback what they've done for their CPD. It would also be a good way to benchmark where we are at the moment and measure distance traveled for members of staff who join the institution or for when they start logging their CPD activity.

Sarah Chesney

I'm Sarah Chesney and I'm a senior lecturer in e-learning at the University of Cumbria I'm also project manager for the JISC funded Flourish Project which is looking at using an e-portfolio for staff CPD.

We first started using e-portfolios with a small number of students through the filepass project which was a JISC funded project led by uclan and what seemed to be emerging was that staff were not very familiar with the e-portfolio themselves and this had an effect on how students used it and whether they engaged or not. So the stimulus for using e-portfolios for staff development was largely based on the recognition that if they're confident users of an e-portfolio system with their students they really need to have had first had experience of using it by themselves for their own CPD.