

Electronic Portfolio

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An electronic portfolio is a collection of student or teacher work using a variety of technologies. Not only do electronic portfolios solve the storage and management problems found with paper portfolios, but they also accommodate an expanded notion of literacy that incorporates multimedia, including text, graphics, sound and video. However, an electronic portfolio is not a random collection of digitized artifacts; rather, it is a purposeful and reflective tool that demonstrates what growth takes place over time (Barrett, 2000). In other words, what differentiates an electronic portfolio from a digital scrapbook is the organization of the portfolio around a set of learning goals, in addition to learner reflections and the rationale for selecting specific artifacts (Barrett, 2000). In addition, to support meaningful learning, an electronic portfolio can be used as a space for language minority students to explore their individual cultures and knowledge with one another. Students can consider ways in which electronic portfolio may connect their personal lives with other texts they have read and written.

Rather than focus solely on academic English and knowledge of mainstream culture, the CLEAR electronic portfolio project draws extensively on the "funds of knowledge" (González, Moll, & Amanti, 2005; Moll & Greenberg, 1990) relevant to students' sociocultural and linguistic heritage for meaning making. That is, the self-conscious and reflective nature of design in electronic portfolios makes a technology-rich context an ideal third space for heritage students who bring their linguistic and cultural heritage resources to the computer lab. These portfolios also incorporate a range of student work with multimedia data and self-/peer evaluation.

References:

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