CCT College Dublin

ARC (Academic Research Collection)

CCT Case Studies   CCT Centre for Teaching and Learning

11-2022

Google Sites for E-Portfolio: A Case Study at CCT College Dublin

CCT College Dublin

CCT Case Study

E-Portfolio Pilot Using Google Sites at CCT College Dublin

What was the nature of the project and when did it take place?

As part of an on-going focus on digital innovation in teaching, learning and assessment, CCT College Dublin decided to conduct a pilot in relation to e-portfolio for assessment using Google Sites during the academic year 2021/22. In the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning's INDEx Survey, CCT scored highly in relation to digital teaching, learning and assessment approaches except for e-portfolio use which was lower than the sectoral average. CCT subsequently consulted with the Head of Lifelong Learning at the Technological University Dublin in relation to a suitable e-portfolio platform. Google Sites was recommended for its flexibility and ease of use.

JISC (2019) describes e-portfolio as "digital presentations of student's experiences, achievements and aspirations for a particular audience." JISC also states that "Creating an e-portfolio involves skills essential for 21st century learning – organising and planning material, giving and receiving feedback, reflecting, selecting and arranging content to communicate with a particular audience in the most effective way." JISC (2019) also describes the various approaches to and benefits of e-portfolio such as:

- ✓ Assessing learning in a more authentic way
- ✓ Making sense of learning and achievements across different parts of the curriculum
- ✓ Achieving deeper learning through reflection and dialogue
- ✓ Understanding links between different stages of learning
- ✓ Evidencing employability skills and graduate attributes
- ✓ Engaging with personal and continuing professional development
- ✓ Developing lifelong learning skills

Which department(s) and/or role(s) managed the project? Which other staff roles were involved in the project / initiative?

This project involved the Head of the Centre for Teaching and Learning, a business lecturer and the Executive Leadership Team.

Describe the aim(s) of the project?

The aim of the project was to

- Encourage innovation in assessment approaches reducing reliance on traditional assessment approaches such as examinations.
- To promote assessment approaches that enhance digital literacy and encourage reflection
- To promote inclusive assessment approaches as part of an institution wide focus on universal design

What were the intended learning outcomes or objectives of the project?

- To replace a written essay for the Social Media Marketing Module on the BA Honours in Business at CCT College Dublin with an e-portfolio assessment using Google Sites
- To gather feedback as part of the e-portfolio pilot process to inform the wider adoption of e-portfolio institution wide.
- To create support resources for faculty and students to inform more widespread engagement with e-portfolio at the College.
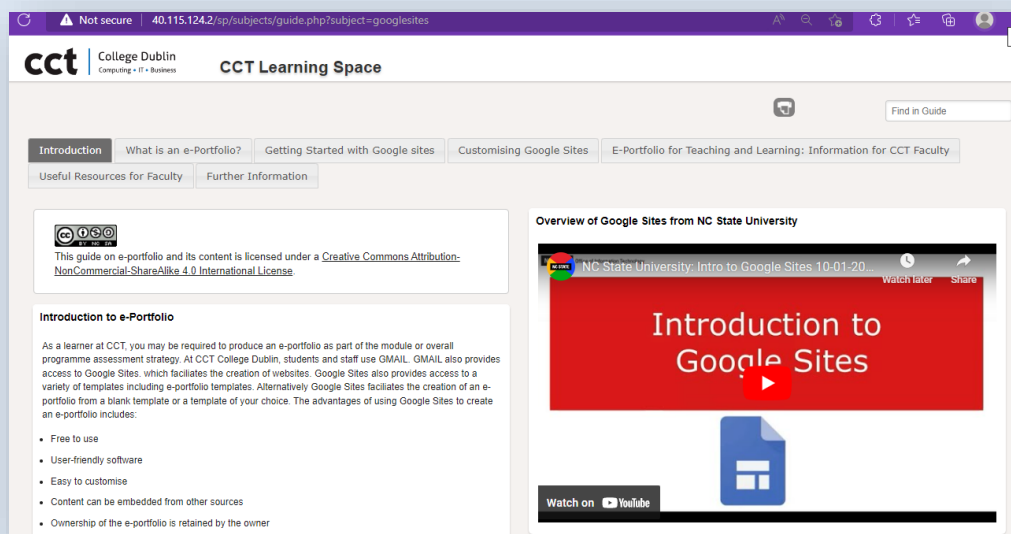
Describe the project / initiative (Please include any useful links to content generated as part of the project)

During the academic year 2021/2022, the written essay for the Social Media Marketing module on the BA Honours in Business was replaced by an e-portfolio assessment as part of an institutional pilot project. Google Sites is particularly advantageous as all CCT students and staff have a GMAIL account.

The advantages of using Google Sites to create an e-portfolio include:
- ✓ Free to use
- ✓ User-friendly software
- ✓ Easy to customise. Google Sites also contains a template gallery)
- ✓ Content can be embedded from other sources
- ✓ Ownership of the e-portfolio is retained by the owner
- ✓ Secure (the owner controls user permissions)
- ✓ Google Sites facilitates interactivity. You can collaborate with other editors for example.

A guide for staff and students was placed on CCT's Learning Space to support staff and learners.

CCT Learning Space Guide to e-Portfolio

What data was collected during this project / initiative? (Please include any links to anonymised feedback where possible)

A survey tool was created informed by the questionnaire in E-Portfolio's hub's article entitled Awareness and 'Usage of ePortfolios by Students in Higher Education in Ireland: Findings from a Student Survey, '

What insights were gleaned from the project data?

The survey tool was administered late in the semester. Consequently, the response rate was relatively small with ten respondents. Going forward, the survey will be administered earlier in the semester to maximise the response rate. Despite this, student feedback is overwhelmingly positive.

- ✓ 80% of respondents agreed and 20% strongly agreed that 'e-portfolio allowed me to record, evaluate and reflect on my learning experience'
- ✓ 60% of respondents agreed and 20% of respondents strongly agreed that 'e-portfolio is a more beneficial assessment than exams or a traditional essay'
- ✓ 70% agreed and 20% strongly agreed that 'e-portfolio helped me to produce a more effective assignment.'
- ✓ 50% agreed and 30% agreed that' e-portfolio effectively showcased my learning to employers'
- ✓ 50% agreed and 50% strongly agreed that 'Google Sites is an effective e-portfolio platform'
- ✓ 100% agreed that 'there are benefits to e-portfolio'
- ✓ 70% agreed and 20% strongly agreed that 'e-portfolio enhances the learning experience'

- ✓ 70% agreed and 10% strongly agreed that they were given clear guidelines in relation to what should be put into the e-portfolio.
- ✓ 70% agreed and 10% strongly agreed that they received help with their e-portfolio

Open ended comments included:

Using the e-portfolio was interesting because it helped me to showcase my work in a different way. I had to learn how to use Google Sites, and although it's not difficult, it demands time. I think depending on the subject it would be possible to show the eportfolio to employers, but mostly I'd say it's a good tool to save all the work that was done and have it in an easy way to access.

Because it's a different way of showing our business idea. Different from a word document, it allowed us to make the idea more realistic, by adding photos and even videos of our products.

I think is a great tool to visualize the entire project as a summary of your work. It is easy to navigate, although it could have more features and options. The creativity to build the page is based on the limited options of the template. But, I totally enjoyed it and i'm already using it to create more portfolios of my work life, also personal live. It is very useful in a professional and personal way. Thank you for suggesting.

Perhaps showing past students' work in the future so they have a better idea of what to do

More videos

Nothing to add, to be honest. I believe that college did its party. The Video from Marie and the explanations from Tracy were enough to cover the insecurities of using a new tool.

View full survey results at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-v9XsXxcO3xjAP3S2uF_2FK3A_3D_3D/

How has practice changed on the ground at CCT as a result of the project?

1. Institutional Resources and insights to support e-portfolio practice at CCT have expanded
2. The culture of e-portfolio is expanding with three more modules in the Business School about to incorporate e-portfolio on topics such as the Learning Development Plan and also Business Leadership. A key priority now is to conduct a pilot of e-portfolio in an ICT subject.
3. E-Portfolio use has increased institutional confidence in relation to technology enhanced learning and assessment with staff who are driving e-portfolio now also investigating podcasting as an assessment approach and using audio assessment feedback.
4. Institutional scholarly activity has expanded in relation to e-portfolio with the Head of the Centre for Teaching and Learning publishing in special issue of the journal of the Irish Journal of Technology Enhanced Learning. CCT also presented on e-portfolio in QQI's 10th anniversary as part of an overall presentation on digital transformation in programme delivery.

Reference List

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Jisc (2019) What is an e-Portfolio. JISC. Available at: https://www.jisc.ac.uk/guides/getting-started-with-e-portfolios

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