



Curtin's iPortfolio: An online space for creating, sharing and showcasing evidence of learning

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Curtin's iPortfolio is an online space for students and staff to create, share and publish evidence of their learning achievements and professional development. The iPortfolio facilitates social learning and encourages feedback and collaboration with peers and mentors. This poster paper visually demonstrates underlying system concepts, and includes screenshots highlighting key aspects of the iPortfolio experience.

The concept

The use of electronic portfolios in Australian higher education is becoming increasingly well documented (Hallam *et al.* 2008). This poster describes unique features of the iPortfolio, Curtin University's electronic portfolio system (von Konsky *et al.* 2009). These features are based on:

- a pedagogical foundation that focuses attention on attainment of the University's graduate attributes and learning experiences from its triple-i curriculum framework (Curtin University of Technology 2009);
- an interface for collecting and sharing evidence of learning and professional development;
- a recognition that learning happens both within and beyond the formal classroom.

In particular, the iPortfolio is intended to be both life-wide and lifelong, encouraging and enabling iPortfolio owners to collect evidence of learning arising from formal coursework and complementary extracurricular activities. This is illustrated in Figure 1.

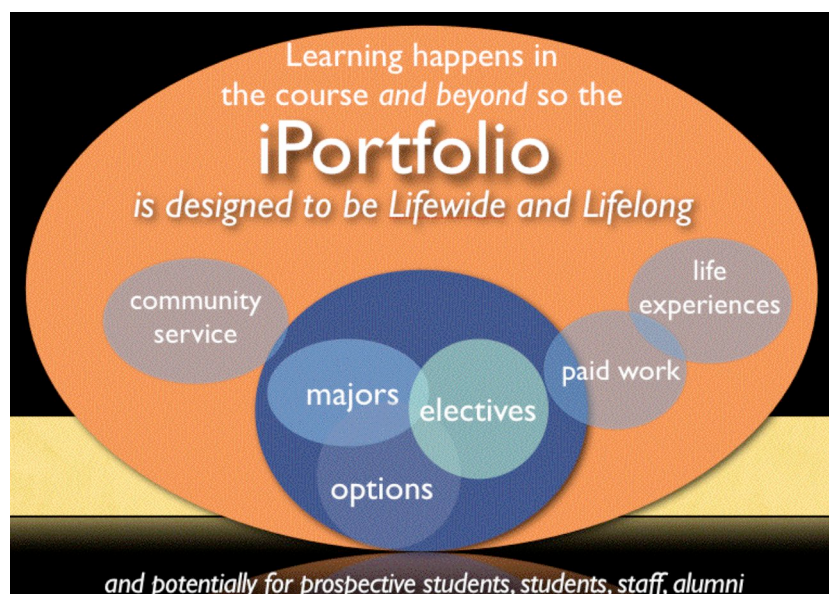


Figure 1: The iPortfolio is designed to be life-wide and lifelong

Students and staff can create, share, and manage iPortfolio entries under the following headings:

- About Me - a profile picture, introduction, biography, and a statement of goals;
- My Ratings - self-rating with evidence of graduate attribute attainment;
- My Course - attainment of course and unit learning outcomes and professional competencies;
- My Employment - evidence of work-related skills and experiences;
- My Journals - reflective journals and logbooks;
- My Networks - extracurricular activities and networks supporting learning and professional development, and links to those invited to view, provide feedback and collaborate within the iPortfolio;
- My Showcases - polished evidence highlighting special skills and accomplishments.



Figure 2: An example iPortfolio entry containing a video resume with feedback from others

The experience

An iPortfolio owner can upload evidence of learning using the Evidence Manager, shown on the right hand side of Figure 2. Individual evidence items can be tagged as demonstrating attainment of one or more graduate attributes, as an example of triple-i learning experiences, or with custom tags designated by the iPortfolio owner. The evidence manager includes a tag cloud, which is an index that enables the iPortfolio owner to quickly locate evidence that has been tagged in a given way. The size of the font used to represent an item in the cloud is indicative of the number of items that have been uploaded and assigned a given tag. Evidence can include movies, audio files, images, and files in Word, Powerpoint, and PDF formats. Templates are available to assist the iPortfolio owner to construct structured reflections that incorporate uploaded evidence. Generic templates that provide the iPortfolio owner with a “blank canvas” are also available. Figure 2 also demonstrates social networking features of the iPortfolio. In particular, the iPortfolio owner may invite others to view, offer feedback, or collaborate within the iPortfolio. In the figure, one individual has been invited to view an entry containing a video resume without offering feedback, and three people have been invited to offer feedback.

Assessments in some units at Curtin are particularly well suited for the iPortfolio and its implementation of social networking. These include assessments in which students work together to offer feedback on role-played scenarios that have been uploaded to the iPortfolio as video, or on collaborative observations about artefacts collected while off campus on site visits.

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