



e-PORTFOLIOS, CONVERGENCE, AND OPEN RESOURCES: Three New Trends in Education

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ABSTRACT

This paper shows the interconnection between the new trend in education of e-portfolios for learning communities, and the two recent trends of convergence and open education resources. e-Portfolios are particularly effective to promote the professional self-development of pre-service or in-service teachers. Pre-service teachers have not only used e-portfolios to develop their abilities in reflecting on given teaching principles in certain contexts, but have remarkably demonstrated their applying these skills to new contexts outside of the course. All the in-service teachers participating in a pilot study investigating the efficacy of e-portfolios showed significant benefit with 30% of them showing excellent development. One additional benefit not covered in their study was that the e-portfolio was carry-away.

Keywords: E-portfolios, learning communities, individualized e-portfolios.