

## E-portfolios in network learning

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"An e-portfolio is a purposeful aggregation of digital items - ideas, evidence, reflections, feedback etc, which 'presents' a selected audience with evidence of a person's learning and/or ability." [Sutherland and Powell \(2007\)](#)

In order to be able to learn in self-organized networks, it is of elemental importance to have some information about network members: path of life, former experiences, success stories and [competence](#) map according to their ability in knowledge sharing, knowledge acquirement (learning) and knowledge creation. An e-portfolio (personal data) in a well-organized database could be a significant benefit in network learning.

"If **portfolios** are 'simply a collection of documents relating to a learner's progress, development and achievements' (Beetham 2005) then e-portfolios could be defined as simply digital collections of these documents. However, ideas of what an e-portfolio 'is' are complex and to an extent the definition and purpose will vary depending on the perspective from which a particular person is approaching the concept. Consensus is beginning to grow as experience of e-portfolios develops which will help converge these different ideas and definitions.

A helpful starting point is to distinguish between e-portfolios as products, e-portfolios as tools or systems and the processes associated with e-portfolio development although they are intrinsically [linked](#) and in the case of product and process, interdependent.

Essentially then, an e-portfolio is a **product** created by learners, a collection of digital artefacts articulating learning (both formal and informal), experiences and achievements. Learners create 'presentational' e-portfolios by using e-portfolio **tools or systems**. As part of this production process, learners can be inherently supported to develop one or more key skills such as collecting, selecting, reflecting, sharing, collaborating, annotating and presenting - these can be described as e-portfolio-related **processes**. Definitions of an e-portfolio tend to include the concepts of learners drawing from both informal and [formal learning](#) activities to create their e-portfolios, which are personally managed and owned by the learner, and where items can be selectively shared with other parties such as peers, teachers, assessors and employers." (Source: <http://www.jiscinfonet.ac.uk/infokits/e-portfolios>)

The main goal of the module that participants should be able to complete their own e-portfolio, to have made e-portfolio by their students and to organize network learning with the help of e-portfolio.