

Abstract

E-portfolio was introduced into the Irish Apprentice training programme in 2015. This research project seeks to evaluate the experiences of learners who have interacted with the e-portfolio.

The review of literature on e-portfolio design and implementation suggest that there exists a particular challenge with the design and implementation of e-portfolio. Has the e-portfolio for apprenticeship satisfied the two conflicting theoretical paradigms of encouraging students to engage in reflection and providing the institution responsible for its introduction with a means of accrediting learners through the use of the e-portfolio? The use of the e-portfolio as a tool that can assist in quality assuring the submitted assessments of learners is discussed.

A sample group of 13 apprentices, 4 assessors of the e-portfolio and three employers were interviewed. The findings from the interviews seem to suggest that over all, the e-portfolio has been well received by stakeholders in apprenticeship. The findings from the apprentices seem to suggest some inconsistencies with how the content in the e-portfolio is being delivered and assessed. The cost incurred upon some apprentices has impacted negatively on the perception of apprentices with regard to how the e-portfolio has been implemented. Assessors reported a high level of satisfaction with the quality of the submissions of students. Employers seem to differ in opinion on the benefits of its introduction. Employers with high numbers of apprentices employed feeling that the e-portfolio has increased their workload. The e-portfolio was utilised successfully as a means of quality assuring assessment content.

The need to evaluate the e-portfolio across all crafts that are currently using them is recommended to investigate what impact the e-portfolio is having on all learners participating in its use.