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UTRECHT FYSIOTHERAPIE

Implementation of a digital portfolio

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Introduction

Background:

- New honours program for physiotherapy (BA) at Utrecht University of Professional Education including first year of MSc Physiotherapy-Research
- Need for portfolio (PF)
- Evaluation of the implementation of the digital PF in MSc program

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Introduction


Purpose:

- To gain insight into advantages and disadvantages regarding a digital portfolio to facilitate the implementation of such a PF within the honours program at the Utrecht University school of professional education (P.T. dept.)

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Introduction


- Role of a portfolio in MSc Physiotherapy Research?
- What's in it?
- Why digital?
- Implementation process
- Students' experiences
- Teachers' experiences
- Conclusion and recommendations



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Why a portfolio in MSc Physiotherapy Research?

- Testing skills and knowledge → competencies

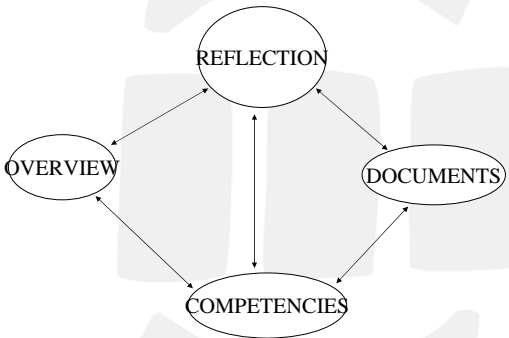


Miller's pyramid (1990)

- Reflection skills and life long learning

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What does our portfolio look like?



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Advantages of a digital portfolio


- Compact
- Hyperlinks
- Easy access
- Personal product
- Computerskills improve



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Disadvantages

- Reading from screen
- Basis computerskills
- Infrastructure



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Implementation of our digital portfolio

- September 2002: New MSc program
- February 2003: Transition paper → digital portfolio
- 30 students, mean age 37.2 years (SD 9.8)
- Utrecht University Portfolio Portal

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Implementation of our digital portfolio

- Lecture and workshop "How to use the digital portfolio"
- Written instructions
- Classmates
- Helpdesk/FAQ
- Personal assistance



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Students' experiences after 18 months

- **General:**
 - 97% were able to work with the digital PF
 - 75% learned a lot by working with a PF
 - 60% experienced start up problems
 - 50% appreciated the making of a personal product

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Students's experiences after 18 months


- **Accessibility**
 - 86% appreciate the easy access to other people
 - 63% agreed a digital PF is compact and thus easy to use

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Students' experiences after 18 months

- **Computer skills:**
 - 90% used hyperlinks to connect different parts
 - 80% agreed working with a digital PF has improved their computer skills


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Students' experiences after 18 months

- **Possible disadvantages:**
 - 18% considered computer skills, computer at home and internet connections insufficient for optimal use of digital PF
 - 22% printed out other students' PF because it was too difficult to read from the screen


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Students' experiences

- Which factors have most influenced (positively or negatively) your experience working with the digital PF?
 - Personal product
 - Development of computerskills
 - Starting level of computerskills
 - Start-up problems


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Teachers' experiences

- Teachers appreciate online access to PF
- Teachers' computerskills and computers were sufficient for optimal use of PF
- Teachers miss the ability to write feedback within PF
- Hyperlinks underused
- Reading from screen hard, but printing out even harder


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Conclusion

- Despite start up problems, our students and teachers mostly agreed with the advantages of a digital PF as stated in the literature and at the same time mostly disagreed with frequently stated disadvantages.
- A digital PF seems to be appropriate for the honours program at the P.T. school.


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Mission accomplished!?

- Yes, our students really appreciated
 - Implementation process
 - Available assistance
 - Clear and structured layout
- but.....
- Recommendations from our students:
 - More education regarding technical aspects of digital PF
 - More detailed written instructions
 - Don't give too much information at once


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Future plans

- Portal: Quickplace (HvU)
- What? and How? separate
- More practice
- Feedback function within the PF
- Emphasis on hyperlinks
- Information regarding basic computer skills
- Information regarding computer and internet


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Students' experiences

- A digital PF is compact and thus easy to use.
 - 63% agree
 - 18% disagree


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Student's experiences

- My computerskills, computer at home and internet connection are sufficient for optimal use of the digital PF.
 - 60% agree
 - 18% disagree


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Student's experiences

- Did you use hyperlinks to connect different parts of your portfolio?
 - 90% agree
 - 10% disagree


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Student's experiences

- Working with a digital PF has improved my computer skills.
 - 80% agree
 - 10% disagree


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Students' experiences

- I appreciate the fact that people have easy access to my digital PF.
 - 86% agree
 - 5% disagree


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Students' experiences

- I like to work on my digital PF because of the personal product I can create.
 - 50% agree
 - 10% disagree


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Students' experiences

- When I need to read another student's PF I print it out because it is too hard to read from the screen.
 - 22% agree
 - 68% disagree

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Students' experiences

- The introduction of the digital PF happened without any problems.
 - 20% agree
 - 60% disagree

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