

Digital Portfolios and Their Versatility Across Many Fields and Career Paths

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Abstract

The purpose of this project is to explore and discuss the importance of college students creating a digital portfolio to showcase their work and achievements as they progress through their careers. As a group, we've researched elements that need to be included to create a strong and effective portfolio, such as an About Me, artifacts/samples, and overall website function. We have also found that a digital portfolio can be utilized by all students regardless of their area of study. Additionally, we've compiled useful information to help students in creating their own digital portfolios.

Kateryna "Katya" Rebensky

A digital portfolio is useful for a few reasons. One of the reasons that a digital portfolio is important is that it allows creators to show what is important to them. The digital portfolio can show the samples that you deem important enough for companies to know about you. These samples can show different parts of who you are. They can be creative, informative, or just entertaining. A digital portfolio is also useful because it shows that you possess technical skills since you had to figure out how you make the website for the digital portfolio.

A digital portfolio is useful for future careers in a few ways. The first is that these portfolios can be made to fit almost any career. The design and layout of the website can be changed in order to best fit what career the creator of the website wants to go into.

You can change and fix your digital portfolio to be custom-tailored.

A sample that I am including in my digital portfolio is a paper I wrote about the COVID-19 pandemic back when it was just starting. I had written it in order to discuss the ways people are trying to stay sane during the Pandemic and the unknown feeling that people were dealing with since it was just the beginning of the Pandemic. I included this paper because it talks about the current events and looked at a different angle for the story. Another sample I included is a paper I wrote about the organization Pancreatic Action Network. This was a profile I had done on the group to show their continued efforts to create a better life for those with Cancer. I had worked with the organization after my grandfather had passed away, so I had wanted to highlight them and everything that they do.

Molly Landfried

Digital Portfolios can be useful in almost any field the college graduate is going into. From mathematics to biology, from computer science to English. Digital Portfolios showcase your work in a clear, concise, easy to access way for employers and future schools to view.

I am continuing my education after completing my undergraduate degree and getting my teaching certification or going into speech pathology. I fell in love with language when I came to college, and cannot decide which I'd rather do. This has set up a wonderful platform for me to examine the usefulness of a digital portfolio.

If I aim to teach, I can showcase writing I have done prior and employers can get a grasp of who I am from going to my website. The portfolio should, and will, showcase my personality as well as my skills in writing. If I were to go into speech pathology, the digital portfolio would be beneficial in applying to a graduate program. Future schools would be able to see my work I accomplished in undergrad and may become interested in me attending their program.

Amber Warren

The main purpose of creating a digital portfolio is to showcase one's work while making a great impression, both of which help in standing out to potential employers. The universality of this purpose is applicable to a wide range of fields, including that of environmental communication. My digital portfolio will serve as a platform through which to organize my strongest writing samples and to present myself as someone who is both curious about the natural world and eager to make a difference in her community.

One specific writing sample I have included is a reflective essay on an academic project that required careful observation in nature over the course of several weeks. I

found the experience to be both moving and profound. It opened my eyes to the idea of place-based writing as well as the importance of developing a connection to one's environment and the multitude of curiosities within.

Abigail "Abi" Risser

A digital portfolio can act as a way to bring your resume to life. While a resume will cover a brief overview of your skills, qualifications, and background for quick and easy review by employers, a digital portfolio then allows you to expand on the skills and qualifications that you want to show off. As an undergraduate student, supplementing your resume with a portfolio when you're looking for a job or even applying to graduate school will help in proving the skills that you have gained during your college experience and even help build a sense of authority in the field you've studied. The portfolio website should also be easy to navigate, appealing to the eye, and have a consistent structure that creates a hierarchy system of information.

Since I am going to be continuing my education as a graduate student as well as gaining teaching certifications, my portfolio will prioritize academic work from the past four years that demonstrate my best research and writing skills. One sample that will be featured in this category is my capstone project/thesis that will be completed in April.

Xavier Dillingham

A digital portfolio has the potential to do so much for one's career than just an average resume is capable of doing. Now don't get me wrong, a resume is as valuable as it will ever be. However, a digital portfolio is able to fill in the gaps left behind by a resume. Where a resume is able to give a very coherent list of what you have completed, a digital portfolio is able to *show* what you have done with a deeper sense of who you are- as the creator and as a person.

Beyond making a portfolio for your current endeavors, you are able to create a digital portfolio for any field in which you have something you want to showcase. Like a resume, a digital portfolio allows for constant updating and retooling. Yet, a digital portfolio allows for a greater sense of updating as you can update your viewers/potential employers of these updates without emailing (or snail-mailing) them a new copy of your resume.

My career field differs a bit more than most as I am pursuing a career in the film industry. The purpose of this presentation is to highlight the different fields that a digital portfolio is able to work for, and for me, I have found just that success. My portfolio prioritizes the work and experience that I have amassed over the years and presents them in a way that both accurately depicts my

skills as well as is appealing to potential employers. A particular sample that I have featured is the script for a TV pilot that I wrote for a class during the Fall 2019 semester. This project falls under my “Scripts” category, which will continue to grow as I write and complete scripts for various projects.

Additionally, I have a simply titled “Video Gallery” category which will highlight any of the videos whether they be ones that I have written, starred in, or directed, as well as reels from professionally produced projects. The purpose of my portfolio is to give a complete idea of what I am capable of doing both in front of and behind a camera with my accompanying credits. It allows any viewer to understand the full and developing scope of my abilities.

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