E- portfolio in dental education

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In literature, portfolio has variously been referred to as 'collection of papers and other forms of evidence to document learning, learning journal or learning diary. This can be further understood by the definitions provided by some of the stalwarts of education. Hall defined portfolio as "a collection of material, made by a professional that records, and reflects on the key events and processes in that professional's career'.

On the basis of the type of content and their intended use, the portfolios can be of following three types: Learning portfolio, Showcase portfolio, Assessment portfolio. On the basis of the medium used to record the portfolios, they can be divided into: 1. Paper-based portfolios: The contents of portfolio are recorded on papers. 2. Electronic portfolios (e-portfolios): The content can be recorded electronically in computer -based tools.

We will discuss today an overview of the content and structure of various types of portfolios, describe the potential of electronic portfolios, present techniques and strategies for using portfolios as tools for stimulating learning and for assessment, and discuss factors that influence the success of the introduction.

In e-portfolios, hyperlinks can be inserted to make connections between evidence, overviews, and reflections. This can be useful, for instance, when learners want to illustrate reflections with evidence that is stored somewhere else in the portfolio, or want to illustrate a schematic overview of their development by making hyperlinks to materials and reflections. Hyperlinks can also be useful to make a table of contents of the portfolio. For instance by including a list of captions in the portfolio and making hyperlinks to related materials. Mentors or assessors can browse through this list of captions, obtain a quick overview of all the evidence in the portfolio, and just click on the evidence that is relevant to their specific purpose.

We will discuss different tools that can be used for e-portfolio i.e. Personal URL, Free website, free presentation, open source portfolio, LMS embedded portfolio, commercial portfolio, use of different social media and networking site for developing e-portfolio. We will also focus and do and don'ts of e-Portfolio