

Longitudinal study examining the value of e-portfolios for students in an undergraduate nursing degree.

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Madden (2018) explored and examined the value of e-portfolios within the Bachelor of Nursing undergraduate programme. According to the Ministry of Health (n.d) e-portfolios are an electronic platform for students to record their work, share goals and achievements, reflect on learning progression and receive feedback promptly. E-portfolios also allow for portability. Findings from Madden (2018) recommended a longitudinal study be commenced examining the value students place on the e-portfolio concept. The rationale for this recommendation is based on the contradiction in the available literature on e-portfolios and the findings from Madden (2018). Further justification for this research was that Madden's (2018) exploration of the value of e-portfolios occurred over a nine week duration, therefore, a longitudinal study is required for a more comprehensive examination of the value e-portfolios have for students in their tertiary training. Madden's (2018) research indicated that international support for e-portfolios has been associated with higher retention and success rates in tertiary education. The aim of this study is to explore and examine the value of e-portfolios from the students' perspective with the undergraduate Bachelor of Nursing programme, while also exploring the value of e-portfolios over a longitudinal study. Year 1 Bachelor of Nursing students will complete an online questionnaire, prior to the return of completed e-portfolios. The intention is yearly completion of a questionnaire over a three year duration. Participation in the study was voluntary. The questionnaire was presented to the students following the submission of their e-portfolios but prior to their grade being returned, to minimise potential bias (i.e. if the student did not receive the grade they were aiming for). Ethics approval was granted by the Southern Institute of Technology Human Research Ethics Committee. Data analysis will occur yearly, for three years, following the response of the online survey. A combination of statistical analysis and content analysis will occur to interpret the results. This is the presentation of the preliminary findings, following completion of data collection for year one of the longitudinal study.