portfolios live on

by [Betsy Damon](http://www.plymouth.edu/webapp/courses2/user/view.php?id=20904&course=16493) - Wednesday, October 16, 2013, 11:08 PM

Longevity really hit me with some of the videos/readings this week. In the first video, they spoke of portfolios as multimedia biographies that serve as memory enhancers for Alzheimer’s patients. I think that is a wonderful thing to start now so it is ready for later if needed and I think if you create it yourself then, when looking back, the connection will be stronger because there are multiple memories attached to the one artifact. I am also an avid genealogist so using a portfolio as a ancestral legacy is wonderful. Genealogists get quite excited to find diaries, letters, etc. that are primary sources about a person being researched.

Part of my purpose for creating this portfolio is to work on my positive personal branding. It’s very hard to think of myself as a unique product like a new brand of toothpaste but the portfolio is helping to develop a display of how I am different and what I have to offer just like any good product advertising. I’ve added a portfolio reflection page called “The 5 W’s and an H!” where I can address the who, what, when, where, why and how of my portfolio journey. I’ve included reflections produced for process along with the original work on the relevant pages but on the 5W/H page I will reflect on pieces in larger parts and as a whole. For example, the first three artifacts in the LM 5040 section demonstrate my use of a tool to fulfill a request, noting that the audio and video tools are fairly new experiences.

**The audience for my portfolio varies from classmates and my professor to peers and others whose opinions I respect to future employers. I am setting my portfolio up so that it can be perused in whatever fashion the viewer wishes. If you want to see my college work – go to the “Education Experiences” page. More interested in how I’ve used technology – go to the “Prezi presentations I have created” page. I anticipate adding pages that pull pieces from different pages together under an appropriate topic umbrella to make it easier to pinpoint just what you want to investigate without having to search through everything. So, in essence, my portfolio is not a static form but a vibrant, expanding thing that grows and regroups in ways that fulfill the viewers needs for finding information.**

**Barrett says, “I believe that all portfolios need to include three forms of reflection, focusing on the past, present, and future. These questions are:- What? (the artifacts that I have collected from the past)\_- So What? (what these artifacts show about my learning at the present time)\_- Now What? (my future learning goals)” (“**[**Portfolio at a Glance”**](http://electronicportfolios.org/myportfolio/LecShare/html2/web_data/file4.htm#content)**by Dr. Helen Barrett ). “What” is the meat of my portfolio and “So What” are my reflections that are included in my portfolio. I will need to incorporate the “Now What” in my 5 W/H page that will express where I want to go with new learning and how I want to apply what I currently know.**

Every time I think about my portfolio organization, I think of ways to enhance it. I haven’t found anything that I want to take out but simply finding multiple ways to access artifacts and other information that I want to include. This will be a never-ending process if I can keep myself motivated to continue it beyond PSU and I think that is a similar issue with young students creating portfolios. The purpose and audience is what will drive me to continue improving my collection and hopefully there will be fresh eyes to view and provide feedback in order to keep my interest in the journey alive and kicking.

 Re: portfolios live on

by [Stephanie Haulk](http://www.plymouth.edu/webapp/courses2/user/view.php?id=9130&course=16493) - Friday, October 18, 2013, 5:55 PM

Hi Betsy,

The "positive personal branding" is important to make yourself stand out from other candidates for a job and it is key to prove this. It's hard to chose the pieces that make us stand out from the rest and to know why these pieces are "the ones." Your attitude and thinking about the process sound terriific and the idea of the 5W/H page is great! It sounds like you have a great start and a direction in which you will follow.

I agree whole heartedly with your last paragraph. I too keep thinking of ways to enhance and change my ePortfolio, but nothing has been taken out. The audience is going to be key in the journey for the ePortfolio owner.

I need to figure out how comments can be added to a Google Site to have an interactive audience. I have specific pages on my site that allow comments, but from what I can gather, people have to be made collaborators for that page in order to be able to make comments. This could be a an issue in a classroom, so I'm looking for an alternative to this "commenting" issue.

Here's to keeping the journey alive (and to fellow genealogists...such an addiction!) ~ Stephanie

**Re: portfolios live on**

**by**[**Ethel Gaides**](http://www.plymouth.edu/webapp/courses2/user/view.php?id=11461&course=16493)**- Thursday, October 24, 2013, 10:10 PM**

**Hi Betsy,**

**Your comments on personal branding is intriguing. I thought about social media and its impact on all of us and wanted to share an interesting blog**[***Building a Brand via Social Media***](http://www.lindaralston.com/1/post/2013/03/building-a-brand-via-social-media.html)**at:**[**http://www.lindaralston.com/blog-eportfolios-best-practices.html**](http://www.lindaralston.com/blog-eportfolios-best-practices.html)