

Preface to the Second Edition

This book is designed for administrators, teachers, educators, graduates, and students with a passion for learning as well as for teaching. Those working in support roles, such as teacher assistants and administrative staff, can also benefit. This book provides readers with an overview of the framework and tools needed to develop a digital portfolio that records lifelong learning and professional growth and celebrates achievements.

In recent years, many institutions and software companies have recognized the opportunities for developing large-scale systems for digital and electronic portfolios (ePortfolios). In contrast, this book focuses on the person at the center of the process. Even those with little computer experience and limited equipment can use multimedia technology to create a vibrant, individualized, high-quality portfolio that can be continually and easily updated. Throughout the process, portfolio developers will gain greater knowledge of themselves and their learning processes while expanding technology skills. In addition, portfolio development can assist anyone preparing for performance review, looking for a job, or seeking a promotion. It also can help organizations aid their staff in focusing on development goals.

This book shows how to construct a portfolio, but it takes the portfolio approach further than the typical presentation folder. In our view, digital portfolios are linked with one of the urgencies of the 21st century: the need for administrators, superintendents, teachers, and students to better understand and use the possibilities of learning technologies. As explained

in this book, the portfolio development process can help developers feel more confident with their technological skills, thus making them more open to sharing their skills and knowledge with others.

In many countries, portfolio development has become an important means of increasing organizational learning and effectiveness. This book raises issues that must be considered if a portfolio approach is to be pursued. People responsible for professional development and policy in education, whether in schools, school districts, or universities, will find the contents of this book valuable as they plan for professional and organizational growth.

This second edition reflects the explosion of work that has gone on in the field of digital and ePortfolios since the late 1990s. This is particularly evident in the range of software now available, making it easier to create professional products, even for those with very little knowledge of technology. Although the structure of the book reflects that of the first edition, many new examples have been included, and most chapters have been substantially rewritten to reflect recent developments. However, the fundamental values expressed in the first edition have not changed, and our recent work in the field convinces us that it is learning and professional growth that should be the focus of portfolio development in the 21st century.