

The GaLEND e-Portfolio experience: Discipline-specific differences in trainee perceptions

Rebecca Wells, MSW, MPH; Emily Graybill, PhD; Mark Crenshaw, MTS; Steve Truscott, PsyD; & Daniel Crimmins, PhD

As trainees represent a variety of disciplinary backgrounds in clinical arenas, policy and advocacy positions, as family members, and as self-advocates, the E-Portfolio process can differ significantly for each trainee. This poster presents findings from discipline-specific focus groups detailing feasibility and acceptability of the E-Portfolio process among family trainees (FTs) and non-family trainees (NFTs). Trainees were divided as to whether or not they would use their E-Portfolios after LEND. One FT said yes definitely. Most NFTs said no. Some said if they were applying specifically to a disability-related position, possibly. All except one FT had no previous experience using an E-Portfolio.

Discipline-specific Perceptions

| Desire for | Appreciation for | Challenges | Helpful for |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Clarification on the Purpose | Freedom of Expression | Technology | Reflection |
| Alternative Formats | E-Portfolio structure | Academic Nature | Documentation |
| User Guide | Support | Written Format | Integration |
| Complete Creative Control | New technology | University System | |
| Check-ins | Accountability | | ■ = FTs & NFTs |
| Hands on TA | Visual Appeal | | ■ = FTs |
| Accountability | | | ■ = NFTs |

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Global Perceptions

Privacy Concerns

- “The second thing for me is for privacy. I am not the kind of person who knows how to talk political correct. I either say it or I don’t. And I like to say it because that’s how you can contribute. If you don’t say than nobody is learning anything from you.” (FT)
- “I’m very much less personal because of that. Because I don’t know who has access to it and I don’t know that I want to share personal experiences with a complete stranger who doesn’t know me. I don’t use social media for that purpose either. I’m just a very private person.” (NFT)

Tension Between Personal and Professional

- “For me, because I’m not in the field providing service right now, mine was more self-reflective. I know that it helped me a lot. Because since I had my child, I did not think about what I was going through or how I was going to navigate and how that impacted my life and what I wanted to do from here. It helped me. It was personal. But what I’m thinking is if it would have been more helpful for LEND if I contributed more from academic side.” (FT)
- “I think we, kind of, had to choose within between making the portfolio either professional or deeply personal because you can’t have it both ways really, and I think most people chose to use personal stuff for it because that’s part of our right. It’s not something we would’ve shown.” (NFT)

Contents were Too Personal

- “I was really a little bit hesitant of showing that side of me to people that I do not know and where this is gonna go. That’s a lot, you know. It’s too deep, it’s too personal, and I do not know where this is going. My thinking is that I either formalize it in a way that it can fit my need and everybody else’s need or I would have to delete it after the program.” (FT)
- “I think we, kind of, had to choose within between making the portfolio either professional or deeply personal because you can’t have it both ways really and I think most people chose to use personal stuff for it because that’s part of our right. It’s not something we would’ve shown” (NFT)