

Google Sites for E-Portfolio: A Pilot at CCT College Dublin

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About CCT College Dublin



- Founded by College President Neil Gallagher in 2005. CCT is based in college owned premises at Westmoreland Street. Approximately 1350 students.
- Offers **QQI validated programmes in business and ICT up to and including Level 9 of the NFQ**
- Blended learning provider status awarded by QQI in 2020. Devolution awarded in 2023.
- CCT has passed stage 1 of the AsIAM accreditation process to become an autism friendly college
- **Member of the Higher Education Colleges Association (HECA)**
- CCT is a strategic partner of Microsoft Ireland

Definition of E-Portfolio

“A typical **learning portfolio** may include both academic materials and personal profiles and may designate some of its contents as public or private. The learning portfolio, then, becomes more than a product, a simple repository of artefacts; it becomes a **process of reflection, of organizing, prioritizing, analysing, and communicating ones work and its value, which may prompt insights and goals**” (Corley & Zubizarreta 2012 p.65)

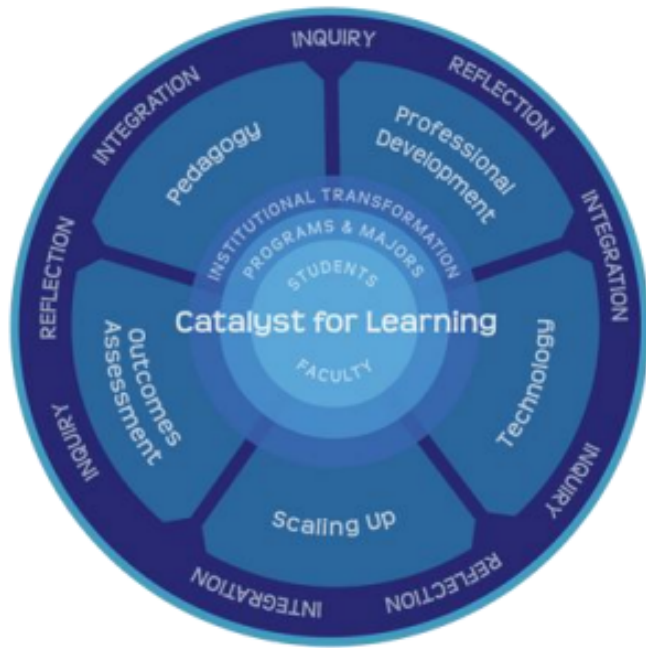
"Creating an e-portfolio **involves skills essential for 21st century learning – organising and planning material, giving and receiving feedback, reflecting, selecting and arranging content to communicate** with a particular audience in the most effective way." (JISC 2021)

Benefits of E-Portfolio

- ✓ Assessing learning in a more **authentic** way
- ✓ Making sense **of learning and achievements across various parts of the curriculum**
- ✓ Achieving deeper learning through **reflection** and dialogue
- ✓ Evidencing **employability skills and attributes**
- ✓ Engaging with personal and continuing **professional development**
- ✓ Developing **lifelong learning** skills

(JISC, 2021)

Eportfolio frameworks for practice



Eynon & Gambino, 2017



Farrell, 2019; Farrell & Seery 2018

Cited in Farrell, 2020



*Irish Journal of Technology Enhanced Learning (2021)
Volume 6, Issue 1*

Participant Engagement with Eportfolio on the PACT Digital Badge: An Explanatory Sequential Mixed-Methods Analysis

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Abstract

This paper explores participants' perceptions of eportfolio on the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning's PACT digital badge in which eportfolio is a central component of the teaching and learning experience. The PACT badge was launched in 2018 by

E-Portfolio Platforms

- Mahara
 - Digication
 - Pathbrite
 - Google Sites
 - Wordpress
 - Blogger
 - Padlet
 - Pebblepad
 - Wix
-

Advantages of Google Sites

- ✓ Recommended by e-portfolio and lifelong learning experts
- ✓ **Free to use**
- ✓ **User-friendly** software
- ✓ Contains a useful **gallery template** including an e-portfolio template.
- ✓ **Content can be embedded** from other sources (Google Docs, Youtube etc.)
- ✓ Ownership of the e-portfolio is **retained by the owner**
- ✓ **Secure** (the owner controls user permissions)
- ✓ Google Sites facilitates **interactivity**. You can collaborate with other editors for example.
- ✓ E-Portfolios can also be **downloaded into document format for assessment submission via a VLE.**

The Academic Literature

The screenshot shows the journal article page for "Enhancing the portability of employability skills using e-portfolios" by Munacinga Simatele. The page includes a navigation bar with "Journal of Further and Higher Education" and "Volume 39, Issue 6". A search bar is present with the text "Enter keywords, authors, DOI, etc". Below the search bar are buttons for "Submit an article" and "Journal homepage". The article title is prominently displayed, followed by the author's name and a "Listen" button. The article is marked as "Full access". Below the title, there are links for "Full Article", "Figures & data", "References", "Citations", "Metrics", and "Reprints & Permissions". The abstract text is visible, starting with "Transferable skills are essential in allowing graduates to make the transition between the world of learning and the world of work. Teaching these skills, however, is a challenge that institutions of higher learning are still grappling with. This article". There is also a "Related research" section with buttons for "People also read", "Recommended articles", and "Cited by 7".

“It was decided that Google was the best option. Not only did it provide students with a way to develop their e-portfolios without HTML knowledge, it also allowed them integrated access to ...Google Docs.. elements that would become very handy when we started to teach collaboration and teamwork. The teaching staff also maintained an e-portfolio that was open to the students as an exemplar. The assessment criteria was made clear right from the start and included.”
Simatele, 2014 p.869

2013 IEEE 63rd Annual Conference International Council for Educational Media (ICEM)

THE USE OF GOOGLESITES AS A FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT TOOL [EPORTFOLIO] IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Huey Zher Ng & Raja Maznah Raja Hussain

ABSTRACT

The goal of higher education is to develop graduates who will be self-directed lifelong learners. This is no exception in Malaysia.

The purpose of education is the holistic development of character and capabilities, the acquisition of specific skills, the realisation of intellectual, physical and spiritual potential, and the training of human capital

Ministry of Higher Education-MOHE, 2007

Therefore, the learning process needs to be re-engineered. This includes realigning the structure of the curriculum for the course-subject which will allow ample and continuous opportunities for the students to perform and receive constant suggestions for self-development. For that reason, assessment, specifically formative assessment is pertinent to students' growth during and after their higher education. Formative assessment has the ability to turn each item of assessed work into an instrument for further development on each student's learning. Furthermore, such opportunities can be captured via eportfolio. The eportfolio plays a significant tool for the students' development because it has the potential to be a learning tool, an assessment tool, and a record of

“The features from Googlesites such as adding comments and editing contents provide interactivity among students and teacher. Thus, this reduces the passive role of feedback. In other words, the mechanisms in Googlesites allowed the feedback to be returned to the students instantly. This provides the students the opportunity to use the feedback as a basis for reflection on competence and development. At the same time, the **opportunities for sharing could also support on-going dialogues with peers and tutors/lecturer.**”
(Huey Zher Ng & Hussain 2013, n.p.)

Aim of the Google Sites Pilot at CCT



To promote **inclusive assessment** approaches as part of an institution wide focus on universal design



To promote **authentic assessment** approaches that promote academic integrity, **digital and visual literacy** and encourage **reflection**

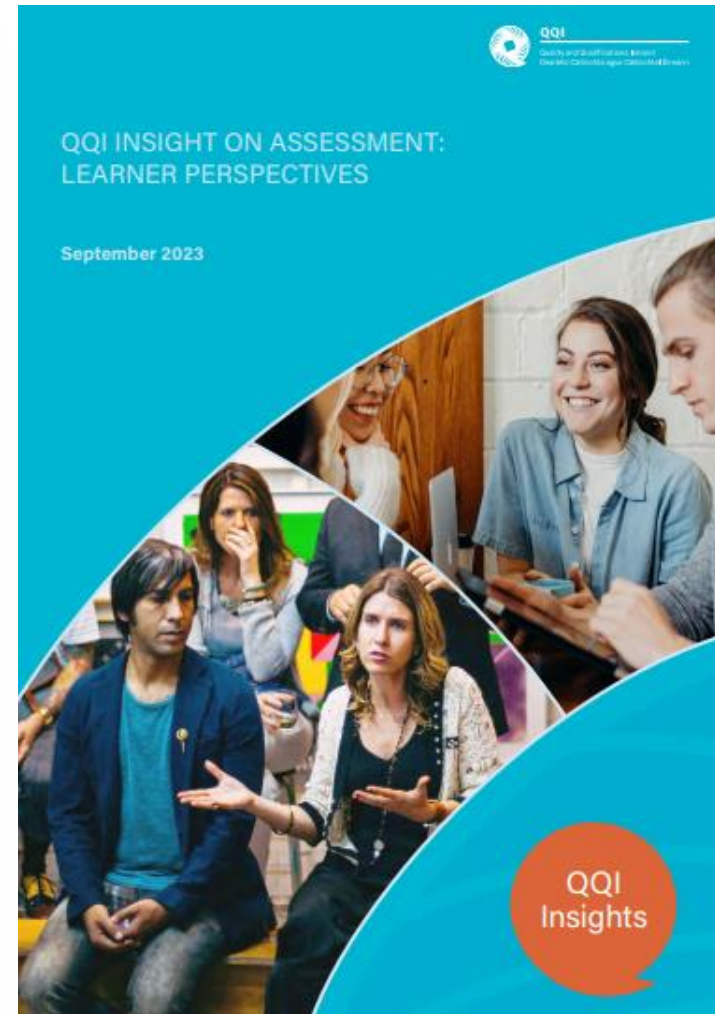
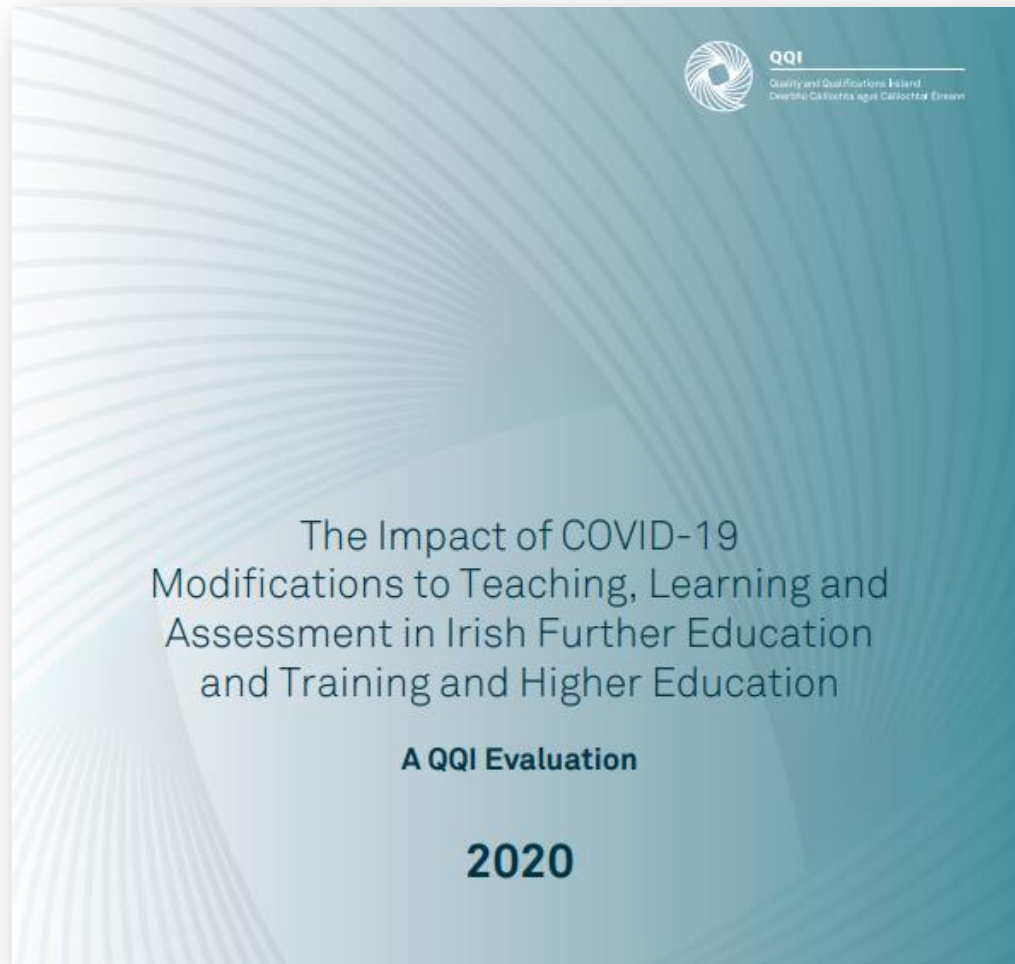


Encourage innovation in assessment approaches **reducing reliance on traditional approaches such as exams**



To gather feedback as part of the e-portfolio pilot process to inform the wider adoption of e-portfolio institution wide.

QQI and Authentic Assessment



“The opportunity to connect theory and practice through practical assessment, which made clear links to future employment skills, could be both motivating and an important component in reinforcing learning” (QQI, 2023, p.7)

Pilot Lead: Tracy Gallagher.

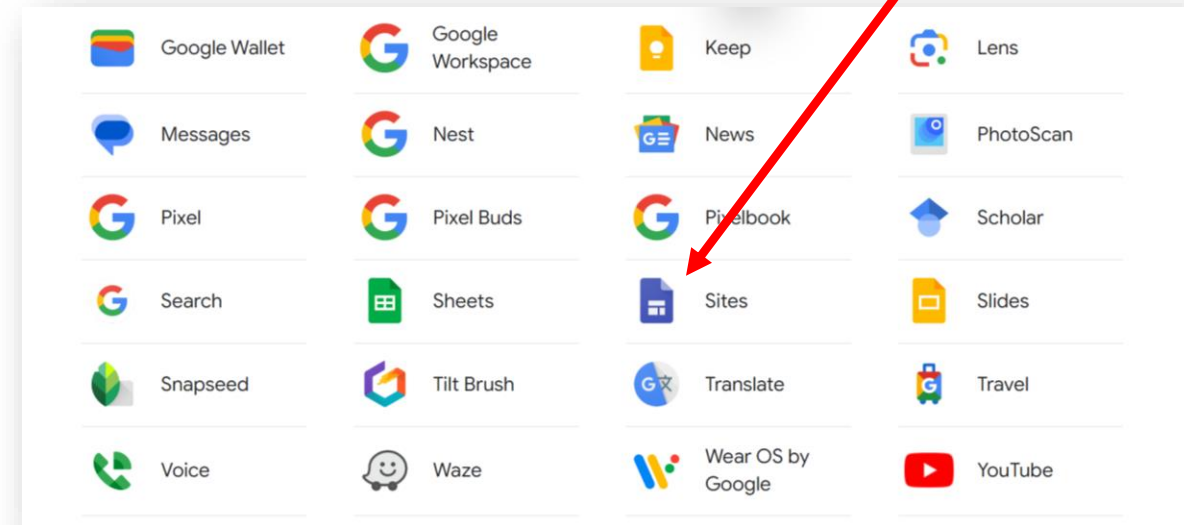
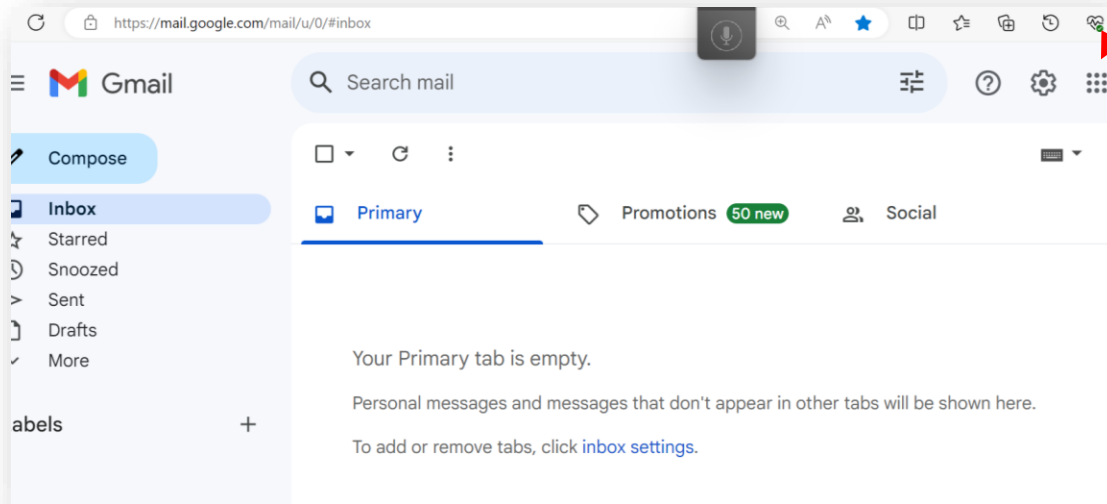
**Project Supported by the
CCT Centre for Teaching
and Learning and
Executive Leadership
Team.**



About Tracy:

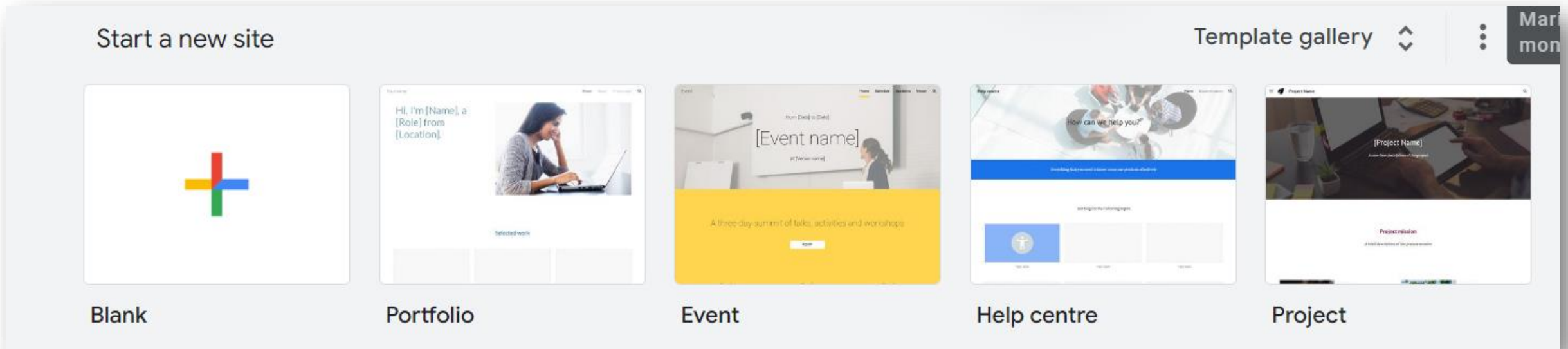
- Business lecturer, CCT College Dublin
- MA in Education, Open University
- MSc in Tourism Management, Technological University Dublin
- BA Hons in Marketing, University of Glamorgan
- National Forum Teaching Hero Award 2020/2021
- **National Forum Digital Badge in Universal Design for Teaching and learning 2021.** Tracy's redesign activity replaced a traditional essay assignment with an e-portfolio using Google Sites.
- National Forum Digital Badge on Personal and Professional Digital Capacity 2022

Accessing Google Sites



- Login into Gmail
- Click on the dots in the top right-hand corner
- Scroll down to more apps

Accessing Google Sites



A range of website templates appear including an e-portfolio template. You can also create a new site from scratch.

Customising Google Sites Templates

Portfolio

All changes saved in Drive

Home About Project Page

Your Name

Hi, I'm [Name],
a [Role] from
[Location].

Text box Images Embed Drive

CONTENT BLOCKS

Collapsible group

Customising Google Sites Templates

Portfolio

All changes saved in Drive

Home About Project page

Your name

Hi, I'm [Name],
a [Role] from
[Location].

Vision

Level

Font style

Publish

Revision of Assignment Brief

- During the academic year 2021/2022, the **written essay for the Social Media Marketing module on the BA Honours in Business at CCT College Dublin was replaced by an e-portfolio assessment.**
- Students create a fictional business using Google Sites incorporating a **social media plan**. Each student's learning journey is also captured in their e-portfolio. Students **reflect** on the project with their peers by presenting on their e-portfolio in class. In upcoming iterations of the assessment, this reflection piece will be formally integrated into the e-portfolio. CCT examples:



theneighbourroots.ie

Welcome *Neighbour*

Organic

Fresh

Convenient

Sustainable

Irish Farms

Eco-Friendly



The Neighbourroots is a premier *Greengrocer* on wheels offering **organic fresh fruits & vegetables** to your door.

A *unique* way to shop healthy!



Fun Fact

Ireland is “well on the way” to hitting its target for organic farming of 7.5% of farmland being under organic production by the end of the CAP cycle of 2027.

Organic farms use production practices with environmental benefits such as water management practices, no-till or minimum tillage, habitat maintenance for beneficial insects and vertebrates, and biological pest control. These ecologically protective practices contribute to enhanced ecosystem services and benefit water quality, soil health, and biodiversity.



About Me

- Social Medias
- Our Schedule
- Rewards
- Recipes
- Our Story
- About Me**
- Personas
- Organic World



Hello,

My name is Danitsa Casartelli

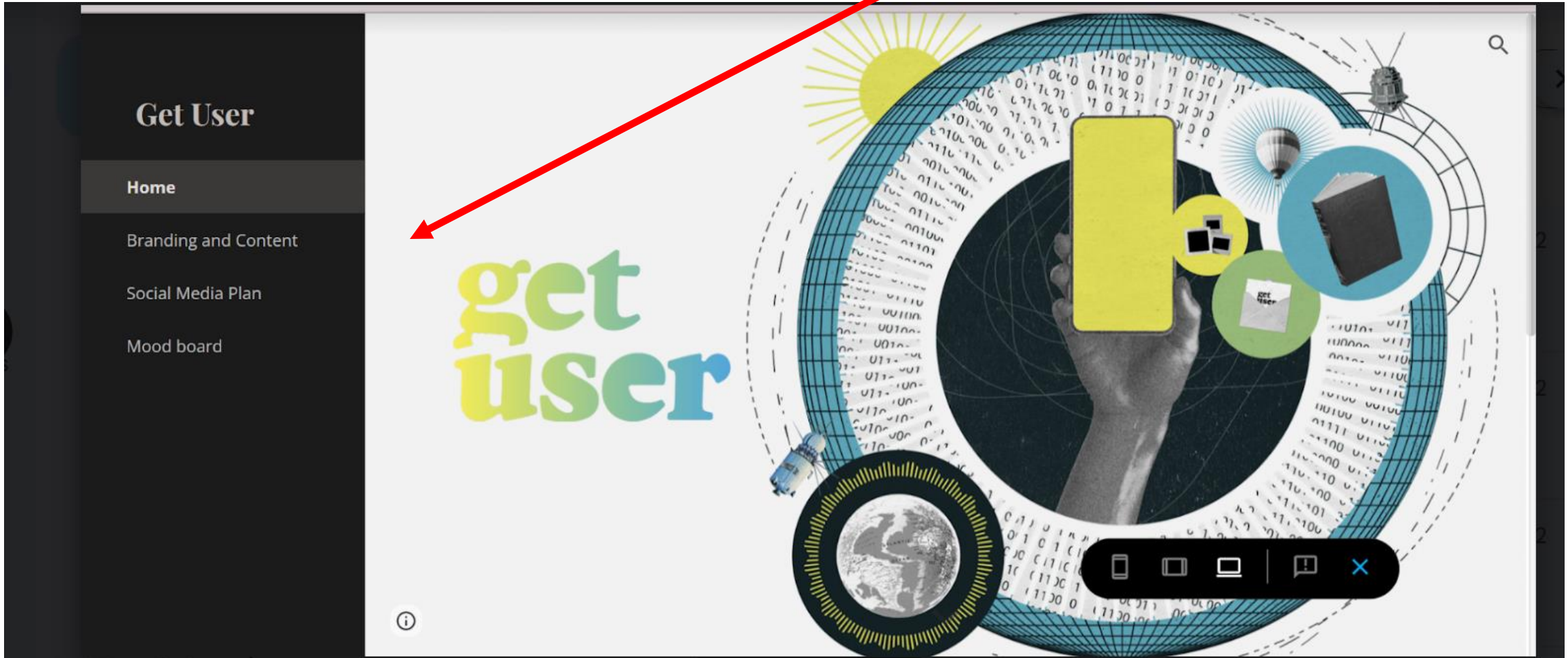
I am the Co-Founder of The Neighbourroots, nice to meet you!

I'm originally from Brazil - Sao Paulo, but I've been living in Ireland for the past 5 years, a place where I've always felt like home.

I love Irish culture, and I have always been so proud of Ireland, and how conscious the country is about the environment. And so I decided to create a



Google Sites: E-Portfolio by a CCT Student



CCT Student Feedback: E-Portfolio Versus Essay

- ✓ 80% of respondents agreed and 20% strongly agreed that **“e-portfolio allowed me to record, evaluate and reflect on my learning experience”**
- ✓ 60% of respondents agreed and 20% of respondents strongly agreed that **“e-portfolio is a more beneficial assessment than exams or a traditional essay”**
- ✓ 70% agreed and 20% strongly agreed that **“e-portfolio helped me to produce a more effective assignment.”**
- ✓ 50% agreed and 30% strongly agreed that **“e-portfolio effectively showcased my learning to employers”**
- ✓ 50% agreed and 50% strongly agreed that **“Google Sites is an effective e-portfolio platform”**
- ✓ 100% agreed that **“there are benefits to e-portfolio”**
- ✓ 70% agreed and 20% strongly agreed that **“e-portfolio enhances the learning experience”**

https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-v9XsXxcO3xjAP3S2uF_2FK3A_3D_3D/

CCT Student Feedback

“Using the e-portfolio helped me to showcase my work in a different way...it would be possible to show the e-portfolio to employers.”

“Because it's a different way of showing our business idea. Different from a word document, it allowed us to make the idea more realistic, by adding photos and even videos of our products.”

“I think is a great tool to visualize the entire project as a summary of your work. It is easy to navigate, although it could have more features and options...I totally enjoyed it and I'm already using it to create more portfolios of my work life, also personal live. It is very useful in a professional and personal way. Thank you for suggesting.”

Tracy observed that student grades improved particularly for students who were less engaged formerly or who struggled with the essay format.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-v9XsXxcO3xjAP3S2uF_2FK3A_3D_3D/

Recent Developments

01

Institutional resources to support e-portfolio have expanded

02

E-portfolio using Google Sites introduced to CCT's new MA in International Business.

03

Support for faculty available via the CCT Centre for Teaching and Learning leveraging pilot feedback

04

Student exemplars will be shared via CCT's institutional repository.



Best Practice for E-Portfolio

1. Identify the clear purpose of the e-portfolio task
2. Clearly articulate the purpose to the students
3. Provide front loaded tech support to students and staff
4. Scaffold student reflection through the use of prompts
5. Give students support with reflective writing
6. Give example e-portfolio
7. Design a specific rubric for the task

(Farrell, 2020)

Useful CCT Google Sites Resources

The screenshot shows the CCT website interface. At the top left is the CCT logo and 'College Dublin Computing • IT • Business'. To the right is the page title 'The Hume Library & The Centre for Teaching and Learning' and the status 'Closed' for Sunday, October 8, 2023. A navigation menu includes 'Home', 'Services', 'Learn About', 'Online Resources', 'Teaching and Learning', and 'Moodle'. Below the menu is a banner for 'E-PORTFOLIOS' with an illustration of a person using a laptop. To the right is a video player with the title 'HOW TO SET UP E-PORTFOLIOS IN GOOGLE SITES' and a play button. Below the video is a text box with the following content:

As a learner at CCT, you may be required to produce an e-portfolio as part of the module or overall programme assessment strategy.

At CCT College Dublin, students are encouraged to use Google Sites to design their portfolios. Google Sites can be accessed via Gmail and it is a free product that offers a number of ready-made portfolio templates.

The advantages of using Google Sites to create an e-portfolio include:

<https://library.cct.ie/friendly.php?s=e-portfolios/home>

Thank you

moneill@cct.ie

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/marie-o-neill-9340747a/>

References

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