



## E-PORTFOLIO AS AN ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT FOR IMPROVING GRADUATE'S SOFT SKILLS

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## Research Highlights

E-Portfolio is an innovative platform that can be integrated in the teaching and learning process to develop graduates' soft skills. E-Portfolio is a dynamic collection that include reflective practice that enable students to showcase their learning outcome, achievements, skills and experience. E-portfolio is a medium that store a collection of learners' works / artefacts which include products, demonstrations, self-assessments, resources, and accomplishments in digital. E-portfolio is a powerful tool to develop students' soft skill such as creativity, digital literacy as well as critical thinking skills as it allows students to produce their own reflective writing and showcase their learning outcome / products. Through the E-portfolio, students' can showcase their best learning practices or learning outcome such as the product that they have created during undergraduate or postgraduate studies to be showcased with the wider audience. The development of E-Portfolio also encourage students to set their career or professional goal and plan, which consequently enable them to showcase their knowledge and skills (including soft skills) to their future employers (Lorenzo & Ittelson, 2005; Reese & Levy, 2009).

## Research Objectives

Through the use of e-portfolio, students can showcase their works, which is important evidence of their learning outcomes. Importantly, e-Portfolio has a potential to become a digital platform for improving student's soft skills such as creativity, communication, collaboration and critical thinking through digital showcases. The important of developing e-portfolio among Malaysian university graduates are highlighted nationally (New Strait Times, 2018; Utusan Malaysia, 2018).

The ultimate aim of this study is to propose an alternative assessment model of e-Portfolio for improving student's soft skills. One of the research objective to be achieved is to identify the indicators of graduates soft skill that include creativity, digital communication, critical thinking, self-directed learning in the development of e-portfolio model important for graduates employability. The model considers important criteria for capturing and showcasing student's soft skills as preparatory measures in providing human capital towards industrial revolution 4.0 (IR 4.0).

## Methodology

This study involve the development of E-Portfolio among postgraduates students who enrolled in Postgraduate Diploma in Education Programme in Universiti Utara Malaysia. The students started developing their E-Portfolio since in their first semester. Currently the students are still improving on their e-portfolio. The E-portfolios developed by the students are the important data source for this study and progressly analyse by the instructors and researchers using a qualitative approach (Braun, 2013) to mapped whether the students are able to showcase their soft-skill in the E-Portfolio. A rubric developed by the researchers is used to analyse the E-Portfolio contents and how it reflects the graduates soft-skill.

## Findings

The initials findings of the analysis of the students E-Portfolio indicated that students are able to showcase their soft skills in the E-Portfolio for the following dimensions or indicators of soft-skills; (i) creativity, (ii) digital literacy and (iii) critical thinking. It was obvious that students are demonstrating their creativity through the proper design and layout of their E-Portfolio. Students also demonstrated improvement in their digital literacy through the





application of different digital media and tools in their E-Portfolio. In terms of critical thinking, it was evident that their reflective writings that students are able to engage in a meta-cognition by reflecting on their own learning experiences.

## Discussions

E-portfolio is a digital learning record that can provide evidence of student's learning outcome and achievement. E-Portfolio also provides opportunities for formative assessment in which it helps to improve students' soft skill development. E-Portfolio is important for student's lifelong learning development as it is a reflection of their learning plans and activities, as well as organizations of their learning processes.

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