My Report

1. Do you use ePortfolios in your classes or program?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes, currently		48	75%
2	No, but I have in the past		8	13%
3	No, but I intend to start in the future		0	0%
4	No		8	13%
	Total		64	

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	4
Mean	1.50
Variance	1.02
Standard Deviation	1.01
Total Responses	64

2. What do you or will you use ePortfolios for? (check all that apply)

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Program assessment / accreditation		23	43%
2	Student professional development		21	40%
3	Faculty professional development		6	11%
4	Rich media assignments (audio, video, images)		9	17%
5	Student reflection / formative assessment		40	75%
6	Documentation of out-of-classroom activities		20	38%
7	Alternative to learning management system (Blackboard)		11	21%
8	Other (please specify)		5	9%

Other (please specify)
Required by Department Head
posting term papers
As a repository for students' writing assignments
Reporting for Annual Review
collaborative site for students

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	8
Total Responses	53

3. What software do you use or intend to use for ePortfolios?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Digication		48	92%
2	Other (please specify)		5	10%

Other (please specify)
Word. Adobe pdf
SMGtools (Sakai)
Google Docs
Omeka

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	2
Total Responses	52

4. Please let us know why you use portfolio software other than Digication.This
information is important for us to determine how well Digication is meeting faculty
and student needs.

Text Response
I have been to 2 Digication training sessions. In neither would it work. The first instructor had no idea why. The second offered the idiotic proposition that there must be a virus in the (university lab) equipment. Students who have been made to use Digication in other classes complain that an inordinate amount of class time has to be spent in getting everyone to master it. This is not what their mentors are paying fees for.
The ePortfolio is part of SMGtools. Files and assignments that already exist in SMGtools can be included in the ePortfolio.
Digication is fine for archiving and for making a Portfolio of student work. Other software is better for classroom management.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	3

5. Why do you not use ePortfolios?(check all that apply)

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	They don't seem relevant or useful		3	43%
2	It would take too much time to learn		1	14%
3	I don't know where or how to learn		3	43%
4	I am satisfied with paper/non-digital portfolios		1	14%
5	I am frustrated with the software (please explain)		4	57%

I am frustrated with the software (please explain)
The software is not intuitively organized. I've never been able to figure out the privacy settings and the interface is clunky. I would love to use an e-portfolio, I've just found Digication in particular to be too difficult to use.
Very hard to find students work and incredibly clunky for students to use. They resist it
Not yet part of curriculum
Hard to manage relative to Google Docs

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	5
Total Responses	7

6. How would you describe your level of experience with the Digication
ePortfolio system?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Never used it		5	8%
2	Limited (can perform a few tasks)		22	37%
3	Moderate (have used several tools and features but feel like there is significantly more to explore)		19	32%
4	Experienced (comfortable with many aspects of the system)		13	22%
	Total		59	

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	4
Mean	2.68
Variance	0.84
Standard Deviation	0.92
Total Responses	59

7. How useful do you think each of these features are?

#	Question	Extremely useful	Somewhat useful	Not at all useful	N/A (I've never used it)	Total Responses	Mean
1	Include audio/video in a portfolio	21	14	2	8	45	1.93
2	Include images in a portfolio	27	13	1	4	45	1.60
3	Include galleries (thumbnails) in a portfolio	15	18	2	10	45	2.16
4	Include files (e.g. Word docs, spreadsheets) that can be downloaded from the portfolio	25	18	1	1	45	1.51
5	Create multiple sections in a portfolio	24	15	1	5	45	1.71
6	Use organizer to move/copy elements of portfolio	15	12	3	15	45	2.40
7	Custom privacy settings	25	15	2	3	45	1.62
8	Group portfolios together in a course	14	10	4	17	45	2.53
9	Create a template portfolio for students to copy	9	14	5	17	45	2.67
10	Create assignments for submission	10	11	8	16	45	2.67
11	Committee assessment/reporting system	8	9	7	20	44	2.89
12	Students retain free portfolio access after graduation	18	17	1	8	44	1.98
13	Automatically populate DIgication courses with official course rosters	17	11	2	14	44	2.30

Statistic	Include audio/video in a portfolio	Include images in a portfolio	Include galleries (thumbnails) in a portfolio	Include files (e.g. Word docs, spreadsheets) that can be downloaded from the portfolio	Create multiple sections in a portfolio	Use organizer to move/copy elements of portfolio	Custom privacy settings	Group portfolios together in a course	Create a template portfolio for students to copy	Create assignments for submission	Committee assessment/reporting system	Students retain free portfolio access after graduation	Automatically populate DIgication courses with official course rosters
Min Value	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Max Value	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Mean	1.93	1.60	2.16	1.51	1.71	2.40	1.62	2.53	2.67	2.67	2.89	1.98	2.30
Variance	1.25	0.84	1.27	0.44	0.94	1.61	0.74	1.66	1.41	1.41	1.41	1.19	1.65
Standard Deviation	1.12	0.91	1.13	0.66	0.97	1.27	0.86	1.29	1.19	1.19	1.19	1.09	1.29
Total Responses	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	44	44	44

8. Please rank these features in order of importance to you (1 is most important, 13 is least).

#	Answer	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total Responses
1	Include audio/video in a portfolio	3	8	6	5	3	2	3	6	2	2	1	0	0	42
2	Include images in a portfolio	6	5	11	5	4	5	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	41
3	Include galleries (thumbnails) in a portfolio	0	1	5	3	7	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	1	41
4	Include files (e.g. Word docs, spreadsheets) that can be downloaded from the portfolio	13	7	4	5	4	2	1	3	0	2	0	0	0	41
5	Create multiple sections in a portfolio	2	5	2	6	9	8	3	1	3	0	2	0	0	41
6	Use organizer to move/copy elements of portfolio	1	1	1	1	0	11	9	6	3	5	2	1	0	41
7	Custom privacy settings	4	3	0	4	9	1	6	7	4	2	1	0	0	41
8	Group portfolios together in a course	2	3	6	0	0	4	8	5	5	5	1	1	1	41
9	Create a template portfolio for students to copy	3	1	1	3	0	0	3	3	6	3	13	3	2	41
10	Create assignments for submission	0	3	0	2	4	1	0	0	5	6	7	8	5	41
11	Committee assessment/reporting system	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	3	0	5	6	12	10	41
12	Students retain free portfolio access after graduation	5	1	1	6	0	1	1	2	2	5	2	9	6	41
13	Automatically populate portfolio courses with official course rosters	2	2	3	1	1	3	0	0	4	2	3	4	16	41
	Total	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	-

Statistic	Include audio/video in a portfolio	Include images in a portfolio	Include galleries (thumbnails) in a portfolio	Include files (e.g. Word docs, spreadsheets) that can be downloaded from the portfolio	Create multiple sections in a portfolio	Use organizer to move/copy elements of portfolio	Custom privacy settings	Group portfolios together in a course	Create a template portfolio for students to copy	Create assignments for submission	Committee assessment/reporting system	Students retain free portfolio access after graduation	Automatically populate portfolio courses with official course rosters
Min Value	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1
Max Value	Selected	10	13	10	11	12	11	13	13	13	13	13	13
Mean	4.81	4.00	7.07	3.46	5.20	7.27	5.90	6.76	8.63	9.34	10.73	8.27	9.44
Variance	8.74	5.90	9.22	6.95	5.96	5.35	7.49	9.79	11.89	11.28	6.85	18.45	17.50
Standard Deviation	2.96	2.43	3.04	2.64	2.44	2.31	2.74	3.13	3.45	3.36	2.62	4.30	4.18
Total Responses	42	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41

9. In general, what do you like most about Digication?

Text Response
Ability to include documents as hyperlinks
I like the idea of a digital portfolio very much for students. Their printing quota is so limited that a paper portfolio is a big burden and it would be great if they could access their work after the semester ends. Very few students pick up their paper portfolios which means all of my comments and their hard work just sit on my bookshelf.
There is a single place for me to collect student portfolios and review them semi-quickly
Ease of use, level of support, ability to include images and video.
It is quite easy to learn and to teach students to use. It is designed particularly for portfolios.
ability for students to illustrate their learning for themselves and others in the community (and potentially employers); flexible on-line tool to reflect in a private mode
Love the simplicity and flexibility compared with Blackboard. It is adaptable for many types of classes, and I can forget about using Powerpoint, etc., in favor of loading things into galleries and multimedia sections of my website.
Documentation of student work
good for assessment
I like the idea of digication, and I like that students can create content and then submit it & I get a grid indicating who has done it. I like that I can close an assignment at a certain day & time.
Students can save their work for the future.
I like that it keeps student work across multiple years and semesters, and I can see what they are doing in other classes
Nothing.
That it provides an alternative way to interact with our students - out of Advising Appointments. That I am able to see what students are learning/doing in their classrooms.
couldn't click above but most useful for text (documents) and visuals and I'm hoping students retain after graduation.
Ha, ha, that's a funny question. It is a very cumbersome and awful system.
I like that there's a record that we can examine to determine whether the students' writing has improved over time.
That it can be used as a method of program assessment for my unit.
It is flexible
Ease of use.
Many of the features might be useful IF I could figure out how to use them, but I can't.
Appearance of product
Images, Word docs, and Excel spreadsheets can be included in a Digication portfolio.
Nothing
I wasn't able to move the rankings above. These are not my assessments! It could be a great tool for assessment but needs a lot of tweaking
The ability to completely customize a template that requires the student to think, review, highlight their learning experience.
Easy to create simple portfolios once you know how to do it.
I used it because it was a tool that was available and which our program supported/encouraged, and in many ways I think I've made the most of it. In many (not all) aspects it seems superior to Blackboard. The potential advantages of switching to other systems conflicts with the prospect of the time and effort it would take to start over and learn something new.
simple to use basic features of adding text, images, etc and organizing those elements
Nothing
The ability to include audio/visual materials in the portfolio
Archiving student for for their future reference
Ease of movement through student portfolios
It's pretty easy to use and somewhat felixble.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	34

10. What do you like least about Digication or what would you most want to see changed?

Text Response
I find Digication nearly impossible to use. I've tried to learn on multiple occasions (as evidenced by at least 3 halfway completed profiles) because I love the concept but the interface is not intuitive. Names (modules, etc.) are jargon would take an entire class to explain; organization is difficult, and privacy settings are complicated and require a lot of work from students. When assembled, the portfolios are also not nearly as elegant as some Wordpress sites which I find much easier to use and would serve nearly the same function, if the privacy settings were there. Even people who've committed to Digication have reported tech issues which tells me the software's functionality is lacking.
It is extremely user unfriendly and not at all intuitive. I have to retrain myself on it every semester and my students struggle to make it functional for them.
Assessment system. Needs to be built out and setup for users to populate and use.
I would like a tutorial available to my students that is easy to see on the homepage.
It is not entirely reliable. I collect assignments through Digication. If the system goes down when something is due, that is a big problem. Dictation could communicate better if it anticipates going down or after it has gone down.
cumbersome to leave comments and use as a grading tool; other than posting projects, analysis or reflections, I use blackboard (or excel) for everything else.
Students find it confusing from their side--but I can't help them always or trouble shoot, because I can't switch my teacher view to the student view of my own portfolio or course. The assignment grid seems to add a lot of extra steps to the portfolio building process--couldn't students submit to the grid and then have the file also get directly and automatically copied to a certain section of their portfolios?
It is difficult to figure out how to have all of the current students in a current course show up automatically when I sign into portfolio.
time-consuming to switch screens and portfolios
It is ugly and anti-intuitive. I so better using free tools like twitter and flickr. I use them all the time with literally hundreds of studets and involving thousands of posts. All of these stay accessible to a student with zero hassle.
Parts of the system are clunky. I dislike that there isn't an easy way to scroll through the submitted responses to an assignment, and I think having steps to the assignment aren't particularly helpful.
Because of the complexity involved in setting it up and posting work, there are too many ways for students to fail at both.
I do not like how you have to create modules, it is not intuitive and students have a large learning curve
I am an experienced librarian in addition to being a professor and I have used many many electronic products and awkward interfaces and this is the ALL TIME WORST. Everyone I work with feels the same. I have taken tutorials, and had one on one consultations and I still find Blackboard to be far superior. I don't know why we need this (well, actually I see how it is being used and perhaps it is valuable). What is more, most students don't really "get" how to use it either. After four years trying to use it, I have still not mastered it and have some doubt that I ever will. (I am not computer phobic!) Its organization, its interface, just finding ANYTHING or anyone in it is difficult. I think whoever designed it lives in a bubble and has no idea how others experience it.
I would merely draw attention to priorities 1 and 2 in the list above; these are crucial to streamlining the user experience--which I've often found redundant and/or clunky.
The program is clunky and not user friendly. There are too many steps for creating, submitting and posting assignments for students. That it does not read with links. The privacy settings are problematic for students.
At first it was clunky to use; I think it has improved.
Less navigating within -- fewer clicks to get somewhere in the portfolio; easier way to upload things
The students have a fair amount of difficulty using it--forget to publish for example--there's too many steps for them to consistently execute. Every semester I have to have some students print out their e-portfolio entries and give me a hard copy.
The students find it difficult to use and so do I. I invite students to put their assignments on their E-Portfolios. We use it more extensively in our group projects.
A lot of quirks in terms of GUI interface/windows-standards-compliance that are really frustrating to deal with. The more complex functions are not very transparent to users.
I would like reassurances that plagiarism is not easier and/or widespread because of Digication.
In the ranking above, somehow the software numbered everyting 1 through 13 descending, which was NOT what I wanted, and I couldn't figure out how to change it. So that order is meaningless but can't be fixed, and that's a perfect metaphor for what I like least about the Digication software: I often can't figure out how to do what I want to do and/or get stuck with something that came up by accident and can't be changed, at least not by me. And that's why I will never go beyond minimal compliance with using it. Maybe to web designers it's obvious how these "features" work, but how many faculty members are web designers? I find every attempt to use this software baffling, annoying, and frustrating.
mulitple clicks required for save, draft, and publication
If I need to look at all of the Digication portfolios for a class of 80 students, then the process to navigate from one student's portfolio to the next is time consuming and rather difficult. Digication has improved in this respect during the past four years ago, but the process is still cumbersome.
No comment
Ediuting and comments functions work poorly for our needs. Very difficutl to use for grading.
Assessment , grading of assignments. I understand that the system was not developed to do this as a priority however as an educational institution we still need to consider how to assess work. Some of the possibilities and expressions seem useless to me or perhaps I still do not understand their objectives.
Unintuitive user interface. Significantly outdated look and feel - lacks appeal of other digital portfolios.
Clunky interface; students don't find it very intuitive
the faculty assessment/marking of assignments is poorly designed, difficult to access/see comments, not intuitive; no ability to have a dialogue with the faculty member or respond to comments if they are given as part of the grading (opposed to commenting on the actual portfolio section)
Submitting assignments could be much more streamlined; general user features
It is not clear how to submit assignments and where to see the grades. It is not a digestible format and I find it to be quite stupid. There should be a very simple grading tab where you can see the grades for your assignments The entire layout of the website feels cluttered and nonsensical sometimes
The term "module" is confusing. It would be more easily understood if called an "object."
The complicated submission process
Students find it cumbersome and counter-intuitive to use.
It doesn't offer much variation in look (apart from minor tweaks like color changes, and font styles)

Statistic	Value

| Total Responses | 37 |

11. Do you have any other comments about Digication or ePortfolio systems?

Text Response
Please exchange this out for a different system. I'd love to do digital portfolios but have not simply because the software is so difficult to use.
I think ePortfolios are a great way to evaluate student work and I would continue working with them. I think that Digication either needs a massive overhaul in format or to be done with all together.
I believe the e-portfolio system and the LMS should be integrated as well as the content management system. Need to address program needs as well as individual needs of faculty and students.
E-portoflios have changed the way I teach! Tons of research shows how effective it is to compile and reflect on work. I love the rich feedback I get on how student make sense of the curriculum that is reflected in the portfolio. I would never use paper portfolios--so cumbersome. Digication isn't that pretty and is a bit cumbersome and sometimes unreliable. I haven't compared it with other portfolio platforms so I can't really say how it measures up.
Digication is a useless piece of software that serves nobody seriously except the manufacturer. Students need to spend more time reading, writing or doing lab work and less playing with computers or struggling with user-unfriendly material. I gather it's lousy for marking even when running well. Portfolio is an outright swindle, dropped by many universities in UK as they realize that students recognize itr as a waste of their time that makes extra work and does nothing for them. The claim that iy gives a true guide to their work achievement is bunk. Nobody ever sits down to read through all that material. This is the sort of trendy fad that teachers who feel a need to be bound by systems boosted with a pseudo-scientific claim for their improved accuracy. It needs to be dumped rapidly to moulder away with curving and multiple choice objective testing for humanities programs.
since the use of the system is interconnected, the ranking question above should just be a simpler 3-level rating of importance
Love this system!!
It was foisted on my faculty and is a waste of our teaching time. It distracts from the learning environment.
E-Portfolio is a good idea, but this program is more trouble to use than it is worth.
Digication has the ability to really benefit/add to the student experience, but oftentimes due to its clunkiness students fold and give up with using it - or just do the bare minimum. If it were more user friendly I think we would see better use of the tool.
My students do not like it at all.
You absolutely, positively have to field test your software on actual, real professors (including professors over 50) who are from the arts and humanities to see if they are as "user-friendly" as you think they are, instead of going with software that you web designers falsely imagine to be user-friendly.
no
Needs much more development but has great potential
They are particularly useful for online courses and online programs so students can get to know the work of their peers and be encouraged to connect with peers in a meaningful way outside of the course. My preference for an ePortfolio product is Seelio.
Digication has one major limitation as a course management tool, which is the inability to view and edit documents submitted by students within the system. (I am not talking about uploading documents to their portfolios -- which are viewable but not editable -- but rather uploaded them as Steps in Assignments in the course management system.) Instead, I have to download them and edit using Track Changes. I never knew there was a better way, but apparently Blackboard allows you to provide direct feedback on submitted Word documents within this system using built-in Crocodoc. No downloading required. I would prefer to use Digication course management in classes where students are also creating Digication portfolios, because everything is in one place; but I can't tell you how much trouble it would save me if I could do that within Digication's system.
don't know anything about it/them
The workshop offered by the IT department is very useful (I would say, almost necessary) for people using it for the first time.
I have moved on from this software, so really have not much to say about it...
It's time-consuming to teach - not as intuitive as we hope it might be and without a fair amount of input from me students don't use it very effectively.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	20

12. What school, college or administrative unit are you primarily affiliated with?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Arts & Sciences (CAS)		12	25%
2	Communication (COM)		0	0%
3	Goldman School of Dental Medicine (SDM)		1	2%
4	Education (SED)		0	0%
5	Engineering (ENG)		0	0%
6	Fine Arts (CFA)		0	0%
7	General Studies (CGS)		20	42%
8	Graduate Medical Sciences (GMS)		1	2%
9	Hospitality Administration (SHA)		1	2%
10	Kilachand Honors College		0	0%
11	Law (LAW)		0	0%
12	Management (SMG)		2	4%
13	Medicine (MED)		2	4%
14	Metropolitan College (MET)		1	2%
15	Public Health (SPH)		1	2%
16	Sargent College of Rehabilitation Sciences (SAR)		2	4%
17	Social Work (SSW)		0	0%
18	Theology (STH)		0	0%
19	Information Services & Technology (IS&T)		0	0%
20	Office of the Provost		0	0%
21	Other (please specify)		5	10%
	Total		48	

Other (please specify)
Global Programs
Study Abroad Geneva
Center for English Language and Orientation Programs (CELOP)
study abroad
CELOP

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	21
Mean	8.08
Variance	37.74
Standard Deviation	6.14
Total Responses	48

13. What is your primary affiliation with Boston University?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Faculty		35	71%
2	Staff		6	12%
3	Student		6	12%
4	Other (please specify)		2	4%
	Total		49	

Other (please specify)
Graduate Writing Fellow
Teaching Fellow/ Grad student

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	4
Mean	1.49
Variance	0.76
Standard Deviation	0.87
Total Responses	49

14. What is your name? (OPTIONAL - if you provide no name or email, the survey will be anonymous)

Text Response
Rob Schadt
Martin Fido, M.A. B.Litt., Oxon
mike oshins
Leslie Kriebel
Chris Fahy
Gregg Jaeger
Rachman, Carla
Alexandra Garcia
Nora Smith
Stephanie Ngom
Andy Andres

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	11

15. What is your BU email address? (OPTIONAL - if you provide no name or email, the survey will be anonymous)

Text Response
rschadt@bu.edu
fido@bu.edu
moshins@bu.edu
lkriebel@bu.edu
goodwood@bu.edu
crachman@bu.edu
asgarcia@bu.edu
nsmith@bu.edu
sngom@bu.edu
landres@bu.edu

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	10