Crafting meaningful reflections for my ePortfolio.

OLDT 501: Introduction to Online Learning

Evidence: Delivery Models and Student Engagement – Towards Best Practice. Activity #5; Annotated Bibliography.

Course outcome: Critically assess and evaluate resources in online learning.

An annotated bibliography, simply put, is a list of books, journals or other works that includes a narrative, or annotation. Its purpose is to advise the reader of the works content and relevance regarding a specific topic. Here we had to research and annotate 5 works and provide summaries of their content. Using the university library databases, such as EBSCOHost, searches were completed to find academic pieces to be reviewed. The RefWorks program was used to create references for the bibliography in the APA format. My selected topic focused on student engagement.

I never knew that there was so much research and information regarding 'modern' online learning. Not only did this project highlight to me another way to have students investigate resources, it enabled me to gain a better understating of the scale that online education has and will have in the future of education. And it did all of this with a focus that drew my attention to a specific goal. The project allowed me to peruse specific articles that were of interest to me and learn new ideas and concepts whilst I searched for my 5 articles.

I personally followed a theme of student engagement that led me to research and papers that focused on higher education. These papers discussed the engagement of university students in online and compared them to blended and traditional classrooms.

Upon reflection I was drawn to this as I interested in how the ideas surrounding engagement at the higher level could be applied to lower grades. In addition, I have always been interested in student engagement, especially where it involves the intentional non-learner.

As I think about how projects in an online environment can be molded to the needs of the students whilst meeting the goals of the course, it becomes clearer to me that open ended projects that empower the student to drive their learning and seeks out areas of interest to them empower them to connect with material, develop their knowledge and still achieve the overriding goal sought by the teacher. This project enabled me to review a number of online resources both for research and product production as well as review the resources available to me as a professional directly relating to this program.