"If portfolios are 'simply a collection of documents relating to an individual's progress, development and achievements' (Beetham 2005) then e-portfolios could be defined as simply digital collections of these documents."
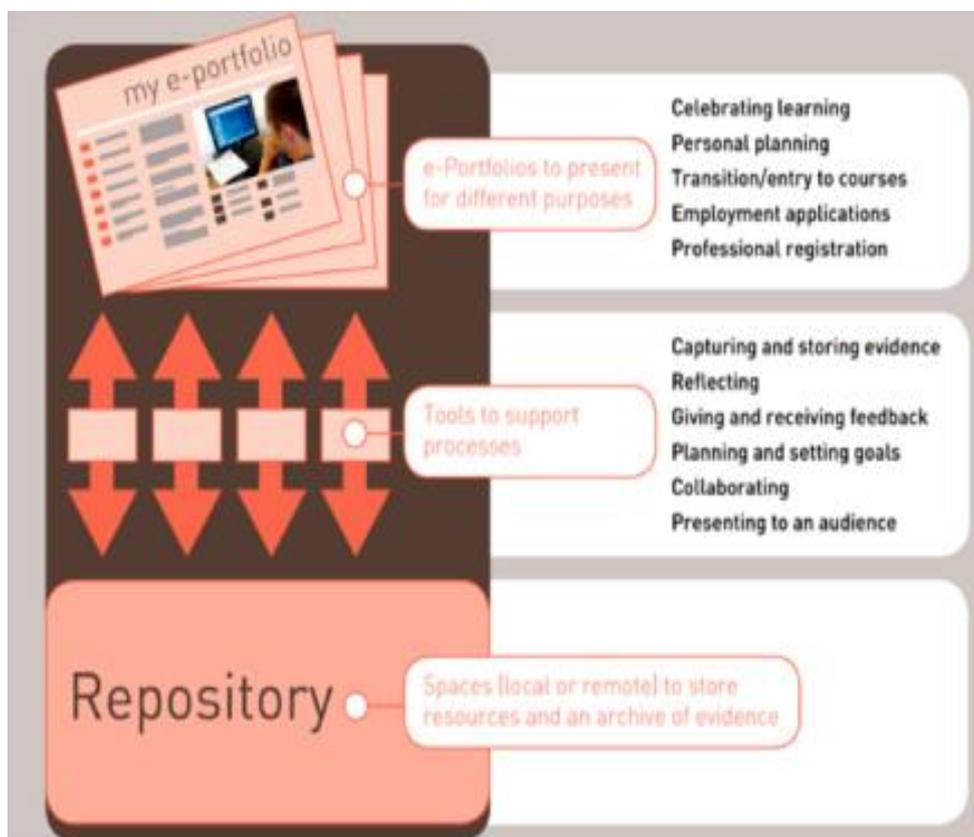
"Another definition of e-portfolios is : "a purposeful aggregation of digital items - ideas, evidence, reflections, feedback etc, which 'presents' a selected audience with evidence of a person's learning and/or ability." Sutherland and Powell (2007)"

So in brief, when developing an e-portfolio, students, faculty and staff, will be involved in a process that involves selecting, reflecting, sharing and collaborating and gives a product.

About Mahara E-portfolios

"Mahara is an open source e-portfolio system with a flexible display framework. Mahara, meaning 'think' or 'thought' in Te Reo Māori, is user centered environment with a permissions framework that enables different views of an e-portfolio to be easily managed. Mahara also features a weblog, resume builder and social networking system, connecting users and creating online student communities."

Understanding How E-portfolios Work

Why Use E-portfolios

- It saves time when:
    - Retrieving information
    - Assessing students work
    - Compiling documents
- It enhances the quality of evidence
- It gives space for developed reflections and feedback
- It motivates students
- It increases the quality of teaching
- It engages students in collaborative work
- It keeps records of institutional portfolios

Major Types of E-portfolios

Assessment E-portfolios

"Assessment e-portfolios are used to demonstrate achievement to some authority by relating evidence within the e-portfolio to performance standards defined by that authority. Rubrics are commonly used to score assessment portfolios. For example, nursing students at a university might be required to submit an assessment e-portfolio that presents evidence that they have a set of competencies defined for nurses in their country as a graduation requirement."

Presentation E-portfolios

"Presentation portfolios are used to evidence learning or achievement to an audience in a persuasive way. Presentation portfolios often contain instructions about how their contents should be rendered. Presentation portfolios are often used to demonstrate professional qualifications. For example, a software engineer might create a presentation e-portfolio that incorporates and shows the relationships between professional certifications she has received, code she has written, and her employment history in order to convince a potential employer to hire her. Faculty members might use presentation e-portfolios to collect materials for tenure track review purposes."

Learning E-portfolios

"Learning e-portfolios are used to document, guide, and advance learning over time. They often have a prominent reflective component and may be used to promote metacognition, to plan learning, or for the integration of diverse learning experiences. Learning e-portfolios are most often developed in formal curricular contexts. For example, a student might be asked to develop a learning e-portfolio that tracks and allows them to reflect upon how their technology skills improve over the course of a year."

Personal Development E-portfolios

"Personal development planning is defined as "a structured and supported process undertaken by an

individual to reflect upon their own learning, performance and / or achievement and to plan for their personal, educational and career development." Thus, an e-portfolio for personal development planning contains records of learning, performance, and achievement which can be reflected on, and outcomes of that reflection, including plans for future development. This could include a learning e-portfolio, but goes beyond that, as it is often related to professional development and employment, so also possibly used as a presentation e-portfolio."

Multiple Owner E-portfolios
"Multiple Owner e-portfolios are used to allow more than one individual to participate in the development of content and presentation. A multiple owner e-portfolio might combine elements of the above portfolio types, but most likely takes the form of a Presentation e-portfolio when used for such purposes as a website or group blog and a Learning e-portfolio when used by a group of students to present evidence of their academic growth through the group collaboration. Multiple Owner e-portfolios are often used to represent the work and growth of an organization or organizational unit and, when so employed, may by referred to as program or institutional