Cyprus University of Technology

Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts
Departments of Multimedia and Graphic Art and Language Centre

Master's Thesis

HOW STIMULATING CREATIVITY VIA E-PORTFOLIOS AFFECTS STUDENT LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

Eleni Zanou

Limassol, May 2020

CYPRUS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF FINE AND APPLIED ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF MULTIMEDIA AND GRAPHIC ART

AND LANGUAGE CENTRE

Master's Thesis

HOW STIMULATING CREATIVITY VIA E-PORTFOLIOS AFFECTS STUDENT LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

Eleni Zanou

Limassol, May 2020

Approval Form

Master's Thesis

HOW STIMULATING CREATIVITY VIA E-PORTFOLIOS AFFECTS STUDENT LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

Presented by

Eleni Zanou

Supervisor: Language Centre of the Cyprus University of Technology (CUT), Dr. Androulla Athanasiou, Special Teaching staff

Signature _____

Member of the committee: Dr. Antigoni Parmaxi, Special Teaching Staff

Signature _____

Member of the committee: Dr. Salomi Papadima-Sophocleous, Language Centre Director

Signature _____

Cyprus University of Technology

Limassol, May 2020

Copyrights

Copyright© 2020 of thesis submission Student Eleni Zanou

All rights reserved.

The approval of the thesis by the Department of Multimedia and Graphic Art and Language Centre does not imply necessarily the approval by the Department of the views of the writer.

Acknowledgements […].

I would like to thank my supervisors Dr. Antigoni Parmaxi and Dr. Androulla Athanasiou for their constructive guidance, valued support, patience and encouragement during this dissertation.

ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this study is to investigate how e-Portfolios affect student language learning and assessment and whether the e-Portfolios can influence student performances on selected 21st Century skills, mainly on creativity, but including critical thinking, communication, collaboration, technological literacy, initiative and self-direction. The methodology is based on action research design where a specific intervention is designed to improve teaching practices and empower students through research involvement in Cyprus public school setting. This dissertation suggests an alternative method of student assessment/learning and development of creativity involving digital tools. The data collection follows a mixed method approach and includes the use of Torrance Tests of Creative Thinking (TTCT), semi and fully structured questionnaires, interviews and student reflections. The findings indicate that the e-Portfolio implementation facilitates students' engagement in deep understanding of the material creating a positive attitude toward assessment. Likewise, e-Portfolios allow students to apply their knowledge via technology as well as to develop skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, communication, technological literacy, initiative and self-direction, and creativity. Moreover, all aspects of creativity (some more than others) appear to be enhanced, because of the variety of mechanisms activated by the process of the e-Portfolio implementation.

Keywords: e-Portfolios, creativity, 21st century skills, Social Constructivism