

6C—Learning about Learning #2

Engaging the Portfolio: Giving Prior Learning Experience Life and Meaning through Research

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This presentation relates how the College of the Liberal Arts and the University Libraries at Penn State teamed up to address the gap between online degree work and library instruction programs that are still largely rooted in face-to-face interactions via course-related instruction. Online learners are not physically present, and they bring with them a range of valuable non-traditional experiences (Prior Learning Experiences, or PLE) that are not fully acknowledged by the academy. The team addressed this gap via the development of a research portfolio contextualizing the students' PLE, which can be submitted to the students' programs for Prior Learning Assessment credit.