

Publish Electronic Portfolios on Video Tape

There are some audiences for your electronic portfolio that do not have the technological capabilities to read a CD-ROM or access the Internet. However, most households have video cassette recorders (VCRs) to be able to view the portfolio on videotape. What is required to publish electronic portfolios on videotape? You will need some means to convert your digital portfolio to analog videotape. There are two strategies: using a digital video camera and a digital video editing program; or by connecting the “video out” from your computer to the “video in” on your VCR.

Connecting the “Video Out” from your computer to the “video in” on your VCR

The easiest way to connect a computer to a VCR is to use an “analog” video out (usually a yellow RCA jack) that is a part of many computer systems that are designed to connect to a TV set. Many laptop computers now double as DVD players, and have the “video out” port and cable to be able make this connection. Connect an RCA cable between the “video out” on the computer and the “video in” on the VCR. Audio is another matter. Radio Shack sells an inexpensive “mixer” that can be used to connect several audio sources, including a microphone and a CD or cassette player.

If you do not have the analog “video out” port on your computer, there are conversion boxes available, that uses the monitor connection to convert the computer image to analog video.

This process takes less time, but the quality of the video image is not as high. This method is not recommended if you have a lot of digital video in your portfolio. Consult <http://www.hyperstudio.com/showcase/portfolio.html> and click on **VCR as a Printer** at the bottom of the page to download detailed instructions for hooking your computer to a VCR.

Using a Digital Video Camera and Digital Video Editing Software

Since all of the data in an electronic portfolio stored on a computer is in digital format, it would seem easier to publish with digital video (DV) software and DV camera. However, a small percentage of the data is probably in DV format, and so would need to be converted into images that could be included in a “digital story” published to videotape.

With a DV editing program on your computer, create a digital video of the elements of your portfolio that you want to go on a videotape. This is the best process for portfolios that contain a lot of digital video clips. Use the digital video editing program to export to videotape through the DV camera. This step may involve using the DV camera to transfer the video from DV tape to analog (VHS) tape on a VCR (most DV cameras have analog “video out” with appropriate cables to connect to a VCR “video in” connections. This process takes more time, but produces a much better result.

There are other “At-a-Glance” guides that cover this process in more detail: *Create a Digital Storytelling Artifact using iMovie3* and *Digitizing Video for your Electronic Portfolio using a Digital Video Camera*. Apple’s iPhoto program can also convert images into digital video that can be used in a digital video editing program: *Collect, organize and publish image-based e-portfolios using Apple’s iPhoto*.
