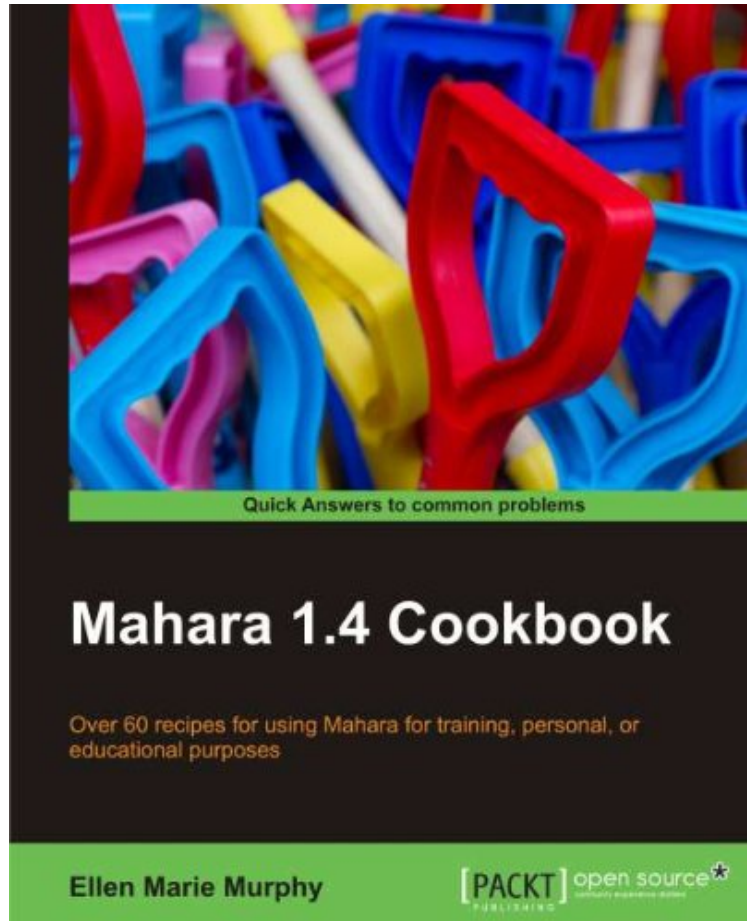


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Mahara 1.4 Cookbook

Ellen Marie Murphy

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Ellen Marie Murphy : Mahara 1.4 Cookbook before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mahara 1.4 Cookbook:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Mahara 1.4 Cookbook By Customer In this book, Ellen Marie Murphy does an outstanding job of guiding the reader through tasks that enhance your portfolio. She addresses the needs of various types of users and gives creative and specific ways that they can use Mahara to demonstrate various skills. The book can be used by staff guiding students through Mahara, or directly by students middle school and older who are using it. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Mahara 1.4 Cookbook - A Tasty Treat for ePortfolio Fans By Beth Gordon Klingner Ellen Marie Murphy dishes out some very satisfying recipes for integrating Mahara's ePortfolio into educational, social networking and professional settings. Just like a good recipe, the contents in this book are spelled out in detail with clear numbered steps and use of bold, links and screen shots to help readers at all levels. For those unfamiliar with Mahara, there are enough of the basics covered including uploading files, images and creating secret URLs. For the advanced users, there are topics on creating image galleries, developing poetry chapbooks, and using the collections feature to create web pages, tenure and promotion materials and accreditation ePortfolios. Ellen Marie Murphy skillfully describes even the most complex tasks in simple, broken-

down steps and through her 8 chapters, the reader gets to experience the many flavors of Mahara - seeing just how versatile this open source ePortfolio system really is. Each chapter is well organized with a concise list of subtopics, a brief narrative introduction followed by clear "how to do it" and "how it works" recipe instructions. What's really useful about this text is that it does not have to be read sequentially to make sense. I started this book in the middle and read chapters according to my interest. Each chapter can stand alone as an extremely helpful guide. This book will be a valuable resource to teachers, instructional designers, students and anyone else interesting in using ePortfolios. Although the book focuses on the technical, Ellen Marie Murphy's understanding of the real pedagogical issues shines through and helps the reader to more fully understand the process. Ellen's creativity, skill and technical expertise combine to make Mahara 1.4 Cookbook a terrific read for novices and experts at any stage of ePortfolio use. Each recipe makes the reader want to dig in and log in to Mahara. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Mahara ePortfolio ideas By anitsirk What makes a delicious meal? It's not just the individual ingredients, but how they are blended together in a mouth-watering composition. Cookbooks help both amateur and professional cooks to get this blend right and to get inspired to create variations on the presented recipes. Ellen Marie Murphy authored the Mahara 1.4 Cookbook for cooks new to Mahara (...) but also for those experienced in its use to give them fresh ideas of how to use this web application. Mahara is an open source ePortfolio web application that has been in existence since 2006. It is used around the world in compulsory, higher, and further education, and other institutions by people to compile their evidence of learning, to reflect on their learning, and to collaborate in projects. Version 1.4 of Mahara was released in June 2011. Ellen Marie Murphy is well-positioned to write a cookbook on Mahara because she is an active user and community member. Before she became Director of Online Curriculum at SUNY Empire State College in September 2011, she was Director of Learning Technologies and Online Education at Plymouth State University where Mahara is in use. In October 2010, Plymouth State University organized the New Hampshire Focus on ePortfolio Day to bring educators from K-12 and higher education together to share ideas about their ePortfolio use with each other. The Mahara 1.4 Cookbook contains 52 varied recipes in eight different categories. Whether you want to use Mahara for the visual arts, literature and writing, create your professional portfolio with it, work in groups, create an education portfolio with primary school kids, a social portfolio, a college application portfolio or use it for certification and accreditation in higher education, you find ideas in this cookbook. There are simple and short recipes that help you create a portfolio page within just a few minutes. And there are more complex recipes that guide you through the creation of a multi-page portfolio in which artifacts collected over a long period of time are arranged. The recipes can be followed by new users of Mahara as well as "old hats". After a brief explanation of the purpose of the recipe and a screenshot that shows an example, Ellen Marie offers step-by-step instructions that lead beginners to the goal. Experienced users of Mahara can go through the recipes more quickly as they already know the processes for uploading files, creating journal entries and pages etc., and can focus on the innovative ideas Ellen Marie provides for portfolios. These ideas allow learners to create engaging, visually pleasing, and informative portfolios which they can expand over time for their own professional purposes, to showcase it to others, or to use it in an application process, for example. The recipes often include additional tips and tricks which give learners further insight and options to vary the recipes and to adapt them. References to other recipes in the book help especially new users to find related content and to continue exploring Mahara by following authentic activities. In my opinion, the Mahara 1.4 Cookbook is a valuable reference book for any Mahara user who wishes to get fresh ideas for working with his / her portfolio. It is also a great resource for educators who want to use ePortfolios with their students in finding ways to encourage their students to reflect on their learning regularly and to compile their portfolios. Although the step-by-step instructions correspond to version 1.4 of Mahara, those who work on an older version of Mahara can still benefit from the presented ideas, and most recipes can be followed on an older version with only slight navigational changes. The Mahara 1.4 Cookbook is the second book written for Mahara and it follows in the steps of Mahara 1.2 E-Portfolios: Beginner's Guide as fantastic resource for Mahara users. It can be purchased as eBook and as paper book. Two thumbs up!--You can engage in the Mahara community discussions at [...] and trial the application yourself at (...) Thank you to Packt Publishing for a copy of the eBook for review. [Review originally published at (...)]

Part of Packt's cookbook series, this book offers learning and techniques through recipes. It contains step-by-step instructions for Mahara users of all kinds. It is designed in such a way that you can refer to recipes chapter by chapter, or read them in no particular order. Whether you are a student, an instructor, an administrator, or simply someone who would like to build your own portfolio, this book is for you. The range of recipes is wide, because Mahara's features can support portfolio development and use, regardless of level or purpose. This book requires only a very basic knowledge of Mahara.

About the Author Ellen is a learning technologies specialist and educator with over 16 years of experience. She is an avid proponent of open source software, and tends to be an early adopter. Her first Moodle and Mahara implementations were during her tenure at The Sage Colleges, where she was employed as Director of Instructional Technologies. Currently the Director of Learning Technologies and Online Education at Plymouth State University,

and the Higher Education Liaison to the New Hampshire Society for Technology in Education, she remains actively engaged with all levels of education: K-20. In 1998, while teaching at a middle school in Vermont, she was introduced to the concept of ePortfolios and has strongly supported the use of ePortfolios in teaching and learning since. She recently hosted a Statewide K-20 ePortfolio Day and hopes to make it an annual event.