The Challenges (and Future) of Networked Learning
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The Challenges (and Future) of Networked Learning

Stephen Downes ~ September 5, 2014

Overview

- A look at Networked Learning

- Skills Related to Networked Learning

- Dependence and Independence

What is Networked Learning?

The Official Definition:

Networked learning is a process of developing and maintaining connections with people and information, and communicating in such a way so as to support one another's **learning**. The central term in this definition is connections.

Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Networked_learning

What is Networked Learning?

The Core Idea

Instruction does not equate to learning. This is the fundamental fly in the ointment of instructional design, and the epistemological failing of learning management systems and most MOOC platforms

Sean Michael Morris and Jesse Stommel:
http://www.hybridpedagogy.com/journal/moocagogy-assessment-networked-learning-and-the-meta-mooc/

What is Networked Learning?

Rhizomatic Learning

Curriculum is not driven by predefined inputs from experts; it is constructed and negotiated in real time by the contributions of those engaged in the learning process. This community acts as the curriculum, spontaneously shaping, constructing, and reconstructing itself and the subject of its learning.

Dave Cormier:
http://davecormier.com/edblog/2008/06/03/rhizomatic-education-community-as-curriculum/

What is Networked Learning?

EduCamp Colombia

Figure 3. Examples of furniture and space.

Diego Leal: http://www.irrodl.org/index.php/irrodl/article/view/884/1677

Potential of Networked Learning

More than just Banking

Meaningful learning occurs with knowledge construction, not reproduction; conversation, not reception; articulation, not repetition; collaboration, not competition; and reflection, not prescription (Jonassen et al., 2003)

Wendy Drexler: http://www.ascilite.org.au/ajet/ajet26/drexler.html

Potential of Networked Learning

A Broader Conception of Knowledge

Public Knowledge
The knowledge from theory, research and best practice

Practitioner Knowledge
The knowledge of those involved – practitioners and contextual knowledge
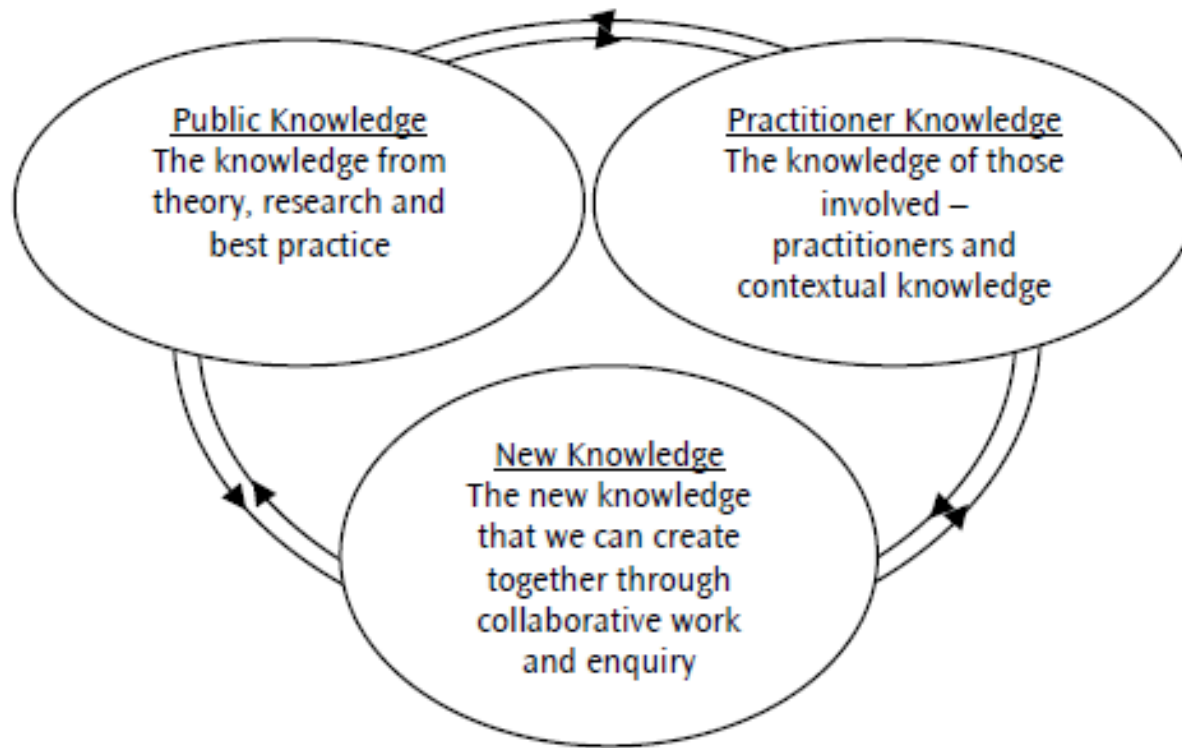
New Knowledge
The new knowledge that we can create together through collaborative work and enquiry

Supporting Networked Learning

New Roles for Systems and Providers

- – Building Networks

- – Mapping and Analyzing

- – Supporting Community

- – Expanding Boundaries

Will Allen: http://learningforsustainability.net/social_learning/networks.php

Supporting Networked Learning

The Role of the Educator

The new opportunities they offer students, though there is that. It's that all of them redefine the educator's role in some significant way. They create entirely new categories of educator, such as "online lecturer" or "scientist studying polar bears". Entire disciplines, far removed from traditional "instructional design", are being created and populated by people who direct online videos, design learning communities, program massive games

Downes: http://www.downes.ca/post/54312

What Skills Are Needed?
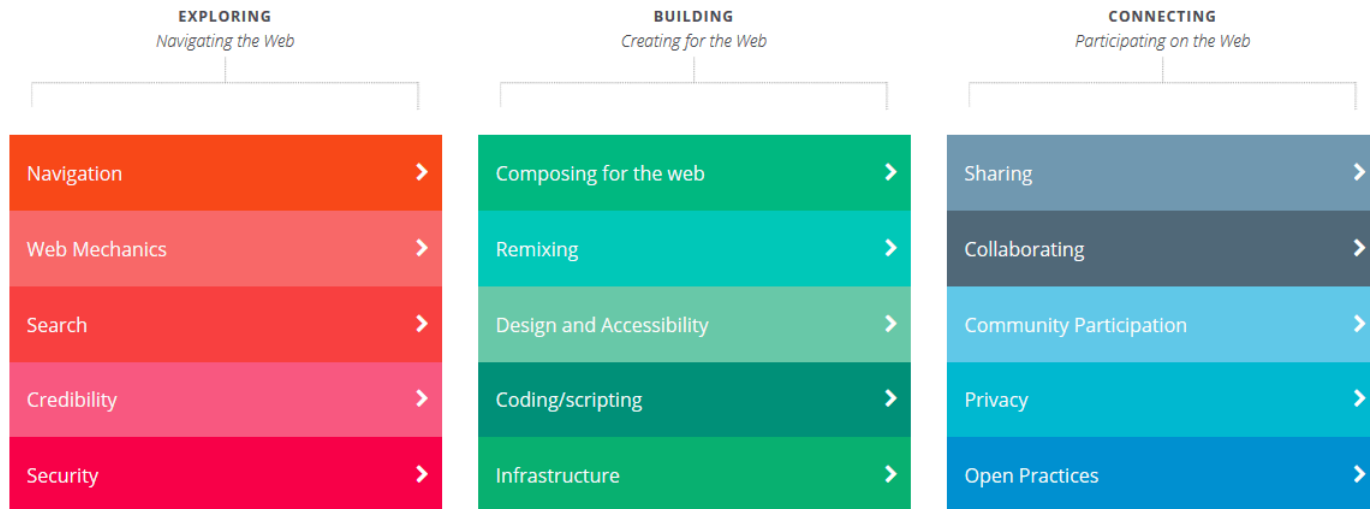
The Semantic Condition

- **diversity** in knowledge, expertise, and application;
- **autonomy** to learners, who act according to their own values and decisions;
- **interactivity** (expand, grow and reform the social network of participants, creating new bonds);
- **openness** among participants, allowing the entry of any perspective, without disqualifying any in advance.

What Skills Are Needed?

Web Literacy

Web Literacy Map

EXPLORING *Navigating the Web*	BUILDING *Creating for the Web*	CONNECTING *Participating on the Web*
Navigation	Composing for the web	Sharing
Web Mechanics	Remixing	Collaborating
Search	Design and Accessibility	Community Participation
Credibility	Coding/scripting	Privacy
Security	Infrastructure	Open Practices

Doug Belshaw: https://webmaker.org/resources

What Skills Are Needed?

The Core of Interactivity: 1-2-3

Seek   Sense   Share

Mechanical & Human
Filters / Aggregators } **Seek**

"Any man who reads too much
and uses his own brain too little
falls into lazy habits of thinking."
~ Albert Einstein

**Sense-
Making** {

Validate
Synthesize
Present
Customize

Share

Transparency + Narration = Serendipity

Harold Jarche: http://www.jarche.com/2012/03/the-pkm-value-add/

What Skills Are Needed?

Critical Literacies

Syntax	Cognition
Semantics	Context
Pragmatics	Change

Downes: http://www.downes.ca/presentation/274

If We Don't Develop These Skills…

- You Are The Product
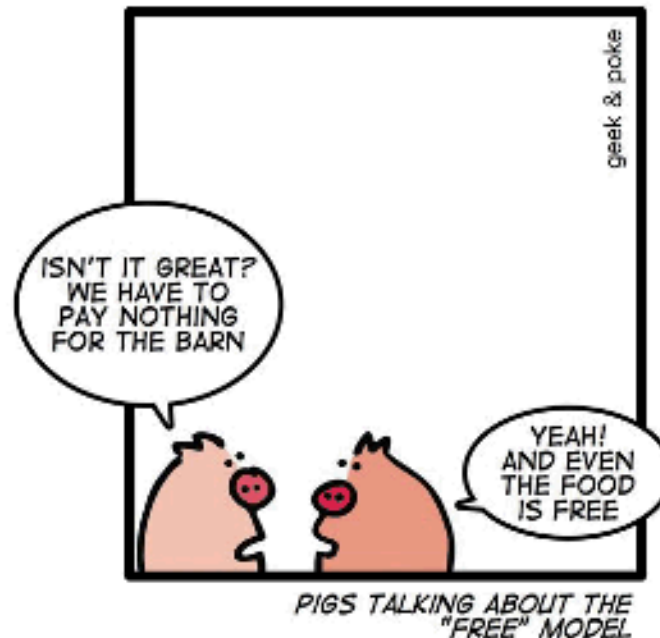
Scott Goodson:
http://www.forbes.com/fdc/welcome_mjx.shtml

Tech Supporting Skills Development

- Blogging and Authoring

- Collaborative Calendaring

- Podcasting

- Feed Readers

- Collaborative Mapping & Drawing

- Microblogging & Messaging

- Publishing Photos and Videos

Jane Hart: http://c4lpt.co.uk/resources/social-learning-handbook/100-examples-of-use-of-social-media-for-learning/

Who Owns Information?

Digital Citizenship

http://www.tidesinc.org/resources/digital-citizenship/

The POSSE Model

The Core Idea

The POSSE media model is built on two basic levels of activity: to **produce** and **distribute** content. The better you do these two things (and the more it is based on listening and understanding your audience) the more media exposure you will **earn**.

Daniel Goodall: http://danielgoodall.com/2012/04/17/the-posse-media-model/

The POSSE Model

Owned, Bought and Earned Media

Daniel Goodall: http://danielgoodall.com/2012/04/17/the-posse-media-model/
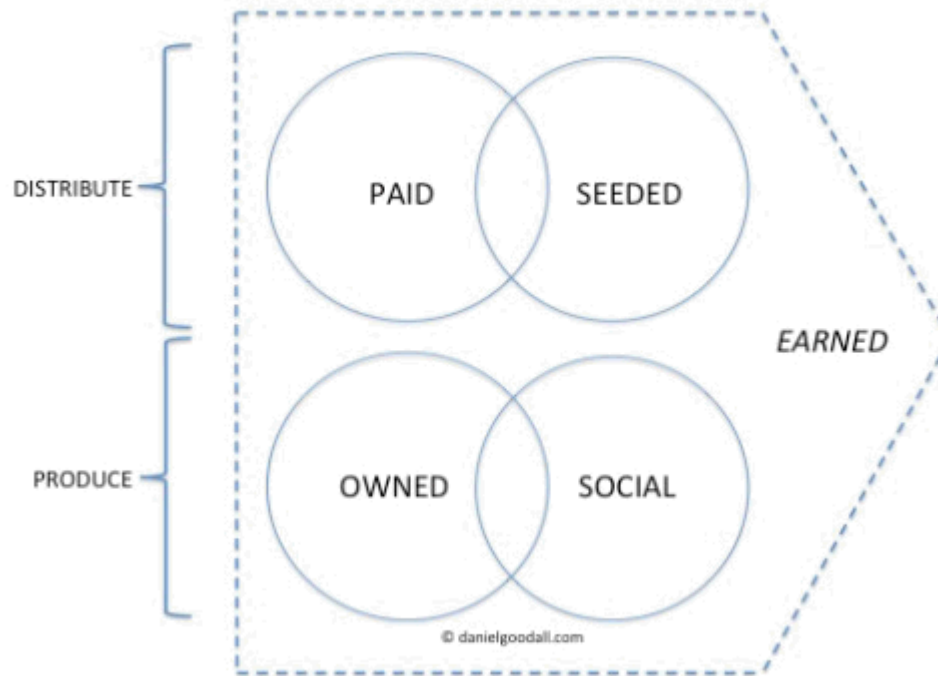
IndieWeb

IndieWebCamp

Your content is yours
When you post something on the web, it should belong to you, not a corporation. Too many companies have gone out of business and lost all of their users' data. By joining the IndieWeb, your content stays yours and in your control.

You are better connected
Your articles and status messages can go to all services, not just one, allowing you to engage with everyone. Even replies and likes on other services can come back to your site so they're all in one place.
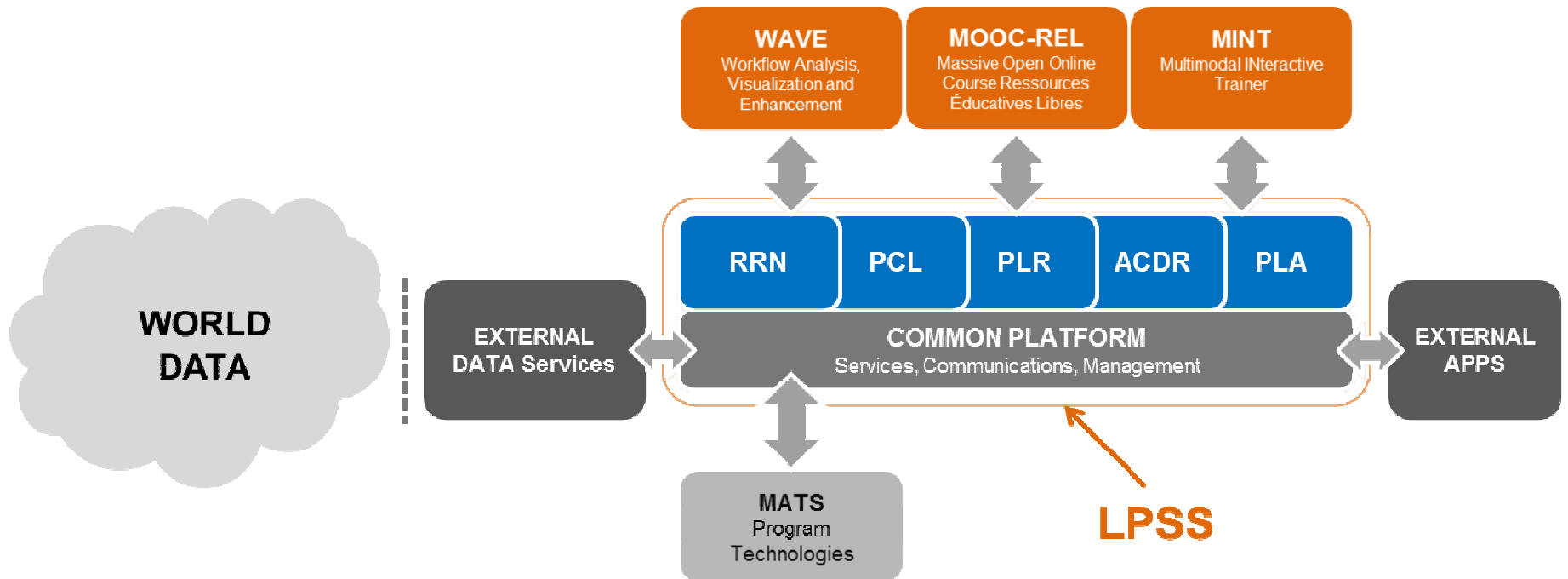
You are in control
You can post anything you want, in any format you want, with no one monitoring you. In addition, you share simple readable links such as *example.com/ideas*. These links are permanent and will always work.

http://indiewebcamp.com/

Personal Learning

- A conversation about challenges (and future?) of networked learning. A broad understanding of the meaning and potential of networked learning can help educational institutions to rethink their role beyond the provision of LMS and centralized information systems. What skills are needed? What happens if we don't develop them? What kind of technology supports the development of said skills? What's the relation between this and issues of information property and citizenship in a digital context (POSSE models, Indie web movement)?