Developing Networks of Innovation via Open & Social Technologies: Starting Points

by Alec Couros

TLt 2005
Outline

Introduction to the Open Movement
  Paradigm Shift/The Open Mindset
  Roots: Open Source Software
  Open Content
  Blogs & Wikis
  Social Networks in the Main/Meme Stream

Implications for Educational & Course Development

Resources & Contact
Paradigm Shift/The Open Mindset
The Open Movement

... part of an evolving paradigm

Opposing Forces
Open vs. Closed
Broadcast vs. Conversation
Institution vs. Individual
Hierarchy vs. Network
Centralized vs. Decentralized
Product vs. Remix
Planned vs. Chaotic
Static vs. Dynamic
Push vs. Pull

Virtual Counterparts
Internet vs. Television
Blogging vs. Newspapers
Skype vs. Telephony
Email vs. Snail Mail
3D Copier vs. Courier

Adapted from Downes 2004
The Open Mindset

From:

“we fully recognize that cultural technologies are far from neutral and that they are the result of social processes and power relations. Like all technologies, they are ultimately developed in the interests of industrial and corporate profits, and seldom in the name of the greater community participation of creative autonomy.” (Penley & Ross, 1991)

To:

“Given enough eyes, all bugs are shallow.” (Torvalds, 1997)

“In a world without walls or fences, you don’t need Windows or Gates” (Interview, 2005).
The Open Movement

The open movement moves well beyond software, and has inspired (open) publishing and (open) content development. The movement involves various inquiries into the nature of intellectual property itself, and has extended. Intellectual property and copyright is an increasingly relevant issue for academic institutions.

The open movement is often described and situated as a reactive event. Some proponents of the open software movement target monopolies (e.g., Microsoft) specifically; for others, it’s an idealistic opportunity (e.g., anti-dominance).

From my perspective, I classify the open source movement as a culture, an ideology, and a better way for humans to work together on shared pursuits.
A New World of Information & Collaboration
Roots: Open Source Software
The Not So Familiar

The following titles are examples of FLOSS (Free/Libre Open Source Software).

- Linux: Operating system, alternative to MS Windows or Mac OS X.
- Open Office: Full office suite, similar to Microsoft Office.
- The GIMP: Bitmap graphics editor (similar to Adobe Photoshop)
- Firefox: Internet browser, alternative to MS Internet Explorer.
- Apache: Most commonly used web server software
- Wordpress: Popular blogging software package.
- Moodle: Excellent course management system, similar to WebCT.

Besides being excellent software packages, the development of such software really helps to demonstrate the possibilities via social networks.
“Free” Software?

Two main categories of “free software”:

- Software that can be copied or distributed without payment (think free beer or gratis). This is often known as ‘freeware’ or similar.

- Software that can be copied, studied, used, distributed, etc., with no or few restrictions.

FLOSS is the term used to represent both types of software.
Open Content
Open Content

Open content, coined by analogy with "open source," describes any kind of creative work including articles, pictures, audio, and video that is published in a format that explicitly allows the copying of the information.

Open content can be either in the public domain or under a license like the GNU Free Documentation License.

In education, open courseware and learning object repositories have recently become popular, but have yet to reach their potential. Some initiatives include MIT’s OpenCourseWare, CAREO, MERLOT, CLOE and DLORN.

The Creative Commons website (and related activities) has become an important presence in the development and warehousing of open content.
Using the Creative Commons

Creative Commons is a nonprofit that offers a flexible copyright for creative work.

- **Audio**: music, sounds, speeches...
- **Images**: photos, illustrations, designs...
- **Video**: movies, animations, footage...
- **Text**: books, blogs, essays...
- **Education**: lesson plans, course packets, textbooks...

**Find**
Music, photos, and more

**Publish**
Your stuff, safely and legally

Creative Commons offers a flexible range of protections and freedoms for authors and artists. We have built upon the “all rights reserved” of traditional copyright to create a voluntary “some rights reserved” copyright. We’re a nonprofit. All of our tools are free.

Learn more...

Recent Features

Weblog
Open Content Implications

The eGranary Digital Library

Delivering Digital Teaching Materials to African Universities
Blogs & Wikis
Blogs

A blog (or weblog) is a web-based application that enables users to post text, images, audio or video to a webpage. Posts are (ideally) periodic, and usually arranged in reverse chronological order.

Advantages of weblogging:

- Simple, assisted html production, as easy as sending an email message.
- Publication is live and instant.
- Customizable templates via CSS.
- Ideal for group communications.
- Simple syndication and subscription through various aggregators (no need to check page for updates).
Blogs for Every Purpose

Social Action
Diaries
Business
Politics
Scholarly
Course Enhancement
Conference
Collaborative Learning Space
Knowledge Management
Photo/Moblogs
PodCasts
The South-East Asia Earthquake and Tsunami Blog

aka the SEA-EAT blog. News and information about resources, aid, donations and volunteer efforts.

Tsunami Help Home  Enquiry  Missing Persons  News Updates  Help Needed  Help Offered

SUNDAY, MAY 01, 2005

450,000 kids to be given vitamin A in coastal Sri Lanka

The UN children’s agency UNICEF said today it has teamed up with Sri Lanka’s government to give vitamin A to 450,000 children living in coastal areas hit by the December tsunami. Vitamin A deficiency impairs a child’s immune system and increases the severity of childhood diseases, as well as leading to poor eye sight and even blindness. =>

“With the tsunami and subsequent population displacement, people have lost their natural sources of food and are exposed to unclean water sources and inadequate sanitation facilities, all of which could increase the risk of childhood diseases,” said Geoffrey Keele, a communication officer at UNICEF. Sri Lanka was the second worst-hit country after Indonesia by the tsunami. It killed more than 31,000 people here and made 900,000 others homeless.

(Source: Associated Press)

Stray at 8:37:00 PM | 0 comments | RSS comments | Want to help? |  

India gives survivors of tsunami 2p in compensation

There was anger and astonishment in India’s Andaman and Nicobar Islands this week after the Indian government started handing out compensation cheques to survivors of December’s tsunami - for as little as two rupees (2p) each.

Residents of the Islands, the area of India worst hit by the Boxing Day tsunami, have felt abandoned by the
Blogs in Education

Welcome

Welcome to the Home Page of the Faculty of Education at the University of Regina. We are pleased that you are considering a program of studies that could lead to a Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Education After Degree, Postgraduate Diploma in Education, Master of Education, Master of Vocational/Technical Education, Master of Human Resource Development, or a Ph.D.

The Faculty of Education at University of Regina serves society by educating classroom teachers and preparing educational leaders. As indicated in our Mission Statement, we are committed to making the world a better place by enhancing and expanding educational opportunities for all learners. We do this through our teaching, research, and community outreach activities.

The Faculty of Education offers many exciting possibilities for individual and collaborative projects that are focused on examining, critiquing, and improving teaching-learning opportunities for children, youth and adults. We invite you to join us in developing these projects and in contributing to educational change that is responsive to and respectful of the diverse needs of learning communities within and beyond Saskatchewan.
A wiki is a web-based application that allows users to add content, as on an Internet forum, but also allows anyone to edit the content.

The name is derived from the Hawaiian term wiki wiki which means ‘quick’ or ‘super-fast’.

Probably the most popular wiki is Wikipedia, but other wikis include Wikitravel, Wikibooks, Wiktionary, Wikiquote, Wikinews, Wikispecies and Wikicommmons.
The University of Regina (UoR) is a degree granting institution located in the southeast quadrant of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. The main campus is bounded by the streets of Wascana Parkway and University Drive. The UoR presently has a population of over 12,500 full and part-time students.

### History

In 1911, Methodists established a residential high school called Regina College on College Avenue starting with an enrollment of 27 students. In 1925, it became a junior college of the University of Saskatchewan (UoS) upon which it started to offer first year classes in arts and sciences. In the 1930s, the range of courses was extended as the campus was transferred to the control of the UoS.

In 1961, the college was granted full-degree granting status and officially became part of the UoS, and thereby know as Regina Campus. The arts and sciences programs evolved with the growth of the Regina Campus, which held its first convocation in 1965. A Faculty Council was formed with the goal of making the campus autonomous. In 1974, the University of Regina was established as an independent institution.

In the summer of 2005 the University of Regina will be host to the Canada Summer Games. Many events will take place in the newly completed Center for Kinesiology and Health Studies (CKHS). The administration of the games will proceed from the University of Regina Students Union (URSU) offices.

### Federated Colleges
Social Networks in the Main/Meme Stream

There are many examples of popular social networks. Such networks are used to develop social acquaintances, or to exchange ideas, thoughts or digital artefacts.

Important terms regarding social networks:

- FOAF - friend-of-a-friend networks
- P2P - peer-to-peer networks, usually used to exchange data.
- Memes - an idea that replicates or evolves over networks, common through blogs. “A unit of cultural transmission or inheritance.” (Dawkins, 1976).
- Folksonomy - practice of collaborative categorization using freely chosen keywords, commonly used in object tagging.
- Object-centred sociality - the idea that successful social networks are based on both individuals and shared objects.
FOAF Networks

Friendster is the fun and safe way to organize your social life

New to Friendster?
Join now - just enter your email address to sign up.

Already a Friendster member?

Find out what's new:
- Stay in touch
- Find and meet new friends
- See how your friends are doing

TIMES ARE COOL.

Who's In?
See which of your friends are already on hi5!

FREE Smileys!
Click here!

My Friends Menu
- View My Friends
- Friend Requests
- Invite Friends
- Pending Invites
- Blocked Users

Find Out: Who's In?
- View My Friends
- Friend Requests
- Invite Friends
- Pending Invites
- Blocked Users

Who's In?

FREE Screensavers!
Click for FREE Screensavers!

Sponsored Links
Webdate.com - Free Personals
No credit card required. Full site access with photos, video, webcam and chat. People are online right now. Meet someone new in just minutes. www.webdate.com
Social Bookmarking Services

Zniff beta updated

Zniff - "the human search engine" that uses information from Spurl.net to find and rank web pages has been upgraded. We call it beta #2.

The new version is faster, more stable and among other things allows you to sort results by time and subscribe to query results via RSS.

Welcome back courosa.

Hot spuris

- Essential bookmarks for web designers and web developers (by 19 within timeframe)
- Home - Torrent Typhoon - Search All Major BitTorrent Sites In One Place (by 15 within timeframe)
- MakeZine.com: Free TiVo: Build a Better DVR out of an Old PC (by 13 within timeframe)
- The 46 Best-ever Freeware Utilities (by 11 within timeframe)
- www.freetechbooks.com :: Index (by 11 within timeframe)
- Xtra-Google (New) The Best of Google on one searchable page (by 5 within timeframe)
Photo Sharing Communities
Implications for Education & Course Development
ECMP 355 (ICT in Education) and ECMP 455 (Advanced ICT in Education) were developed for Winter 2004 and Winter 2005. Course development motto: “small pieces, loosely joined” (Levine, 2004).

The use of open source software and social network tools included:

- A CD was distributed with a collection of open source software, free tutorials and open content developed by previous students (a shared repertoire).
- A group blog (for each course) were developed using WordPress.
- Students also developed their own blogs, and students used Bloglines (web-based aggregator) to keep track of student posts.
- Students used Spurl to keep track of online resources, and lists were shared through aggregation.
- An interactive course directory was developed to track student progress and to was used to help build relationships between the students and instructor.
- MSN IM was used to communicate with students in between sessions.
The Reality of Happy Slapping

This last semester, I've mentioned happy slapping a fair bit, along with other aberrant, digitally-inspired behaviours. If you haven't heard of happy slapping, well it's a phenomenon sweeping the UK in which an individual slaps or strikes a (usually) complete stranger while the incident is recorded on a video-enabled mobile phone. Of course, since such phones are also Bluetooth or MMS equipped, videos can be usually traded, shared and uploaded, and competition promotes one-upness.

A recent article by Carl Longino (via Boing Boing) helps to support the point that these incidents should be taken seriously, and instigators are violent criminals. Longino points to a video compilation by blogger Alfie Dennen which shows just how violent these attacks can in fact be.

If you are at all sensitive to violent video footage, skip it. However, if you want to see how bad this problem could get, you may want to take a look. Scary stuff.

Posted by courosa at 03:34 PM | Permalink | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)
Week #8 Overview

Filed under: ECMP Main — courosa @ 1:53 pm

Well today we looked at telecollaborative projects and virtual environments. Of course, there is a list of telecollaborative projects on [Week #8 of the course site](http://example.com), which I have provided, and a simple [Google search on telecollaborative projects](https://www.google.com) will get you tons more. One of the projects I did not mention in class was the [Fiat Stanley](http://example.com) project (as many of you are already aware of it). [Flat Stanley](http://example.com) made the news the other day as he attended the Oscars with Clint Eastwood. Be sure to check Tech Task #5 as it involves your research and description of a telecollaborative project.

For the rest of the class, we experienced a tour of the [TappedIn](http://example.com) environment. TappedIn acts as a virtual professional development environment for teachers, and can be an amazing resource. Check out the [TappedIn Calendar](http://example.com) for upcoming events.

**Important Note:** In lieu of the March 16th class, you will be asked to attend any March TappedIn PD session. You will be asked to describe the session in your blog. You may want to start looking for sessions of interest ASAP.

Thanks, and talk to you all next week.
Feed Aggregation

Bloglines provides two ways you can share your subscriptions with others. First, to enable sharing, you must make sure that your profile allows sharing. Once sharing is enabled, all of your subscriptions and folders become public. When viewing a subscription, you can click the 'Edit' link to toggle individual folders and subscriptions private. A private folder or subscription will not show up in either a Blogroll or in the /blog view, as described below.

Blogrolls

On many blogs, there are lists of links to other blogs. These lists are called blogrolls. You can incorporate your Bloglines subscriptions into your blog, as a blogroll, by including a small piece of HTML that loads a script from Bloglines. Use the following wizard to generate the HTML for your blog. If you leave the Folder field blank, all of your public subscriptions will be displayed. If you leave the Link Target field blank, links will load in same window as the blogroll.

Your User Name: couros
Folder to Display:
Link Target:

Using CSS, you can customize the appearance of your blogroll. The blogroll has two <div> tags, which let you change the appearance of folder titles and subscriptions. For more
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Continuing Developments

- Move to Moodle or Sakai vs. WebCT.
- Use an open source video conferencing tool versus WebTrain.
- Look at developing or incorporating more powerful RSS aggregation tools.
- Continue to provide and promote open source software to students.
- Encourage students to release content via copyleft licenses.
- Development of a Faculty wide blogging system.
- Continued promotion of the ICT 4 Teachers WebLog: a weblog for ECMP Alumni.
What Was Most Valuable?

Now that we are all done our ECMP class or classes, and are out in the working world (or will be there soon) … I was just wondering what everyone found to be the most valuable thing that they learned in ECMP. Or what do you think will be most valuable?

For me, ECMP 355 helped me to feel much more confident using computers, and incorporating technology into my lesson plans. Before that class I would have been lost trying to make a lesson plan that included the use of technology as a tool for learning. One of the most valuable things I learned in ECMP 355 was how to make a webpage. I was able to have my students make webpages during my internship, not only for personal use, but also for group projects.

The most valuable thing that I learned in ECMP 455 was Blogging!

What about everyone else?

0 Comments
Resources

• Creative Commons: http://www.creativecommons.org
• Flickr: http://www.flickr.com
• Spurl: http://www.spurl.net
• Delicious: http://del.icio.us
• The Open CD: http://www.theopencd.org
• Open Office: http://www.openoffice.org
• Blogger: http://www.blogger.com
• Wordpress: http://www.wordpress.org
• ECMP 455: http://education.uregina.ca/technology/ecmp455
Contact

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or Google me: keyword ‘couros’