



Judy O'Connell

Learning Is a Multi-modal Conversation

It is no accident that words are at the heart of our Read/Write Web 2.0 [r]evolution. The collaborative powers unleashed through the invention of printing enabled thinking and innovation ...by sharing. The fact that this sharing now stretches to the Read/Write Web does not change the basic fact that when we are literate we are more effective at creating, developing, understanding, and sharing meaning.

Bloggers regularly write about Web 2.0 online applications for students, sharing ideas, tips, and tricks for engaging our digital natives in learning. The JISC Technology Watch on Web 2.0 explains that choice, co-creation, and information access are changing what it means to be a net-savvy teacher. The [r]evolution in information and knowledge work is summed up in the Top 100 Tools for Learning 2007.

As we pour our own words, tags, sounds, images, and multimedia into the ever-increasing global knowledge and information pool, we have to become adept at patterns of connectivity in these learning contexts. So any Web 2.0 evangelist must consider literacy and information as key tools for developing judgment in an online environment, built on good searching and sourcing of knowledge components.

How can we do this? Know the best ways to find information using robust

search engines—whether it's Google, or one of the Top 100 Alternative Search Engines, or Pandia Metasearch. Focus on truth, accuracy, and reliability in this 2.0 revolution of Wikipedia, citizen reporting, and information mashups. Don't let bias, inaccuracies, shallow knowledge, and superficial observations of the world challenge knowledge development through deep analysis and considered judgment.

Although it's nice to have access to all this information... isn't it nice to also have guides who tell you what's right/wrong or up/down? (Cindy)

If the Cult of the Amateur leads to less culture, less reliable news, and a chaos of useless information then it's our own fault!

Provide a fabulous Library 2.0 learning space and robust online information portal that provides good reading and quality in-depth information resources in all possible formats.

We need students who are able to function in a world where they need to be literate in so many different ways ... They are not necessarily "literate" just because they are "content producers." (Karen)

Learning is a global multi-modal conversation, and it is [r]evolutionary.

Want to learn more? Like many schools and libraries, you can create your own online Learning 2.0 program. Or "Skoolaborate" your learning conversation "in world" in a 3D virtual metaverse. With Web 2.0,

"...a teacher can be comfortable stepping back and letting the kids teach themselves and organize projects with their peers. It's the best way to groom future leaders and free-thinking individuals." (Chris)

Resources

- Jane's E-Learning Pick of the Day: <http://janeknight.typepad.com/pick/>
- JISC Technology & Standards Watch *What is Web 2.0? Ideas, technologies and implications for education*: <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/media/documents/techwatch/tsw0701b.pdf>
- Keen, A. (2007) *Cult of the Amateur. How today's Internet is killing our culture and assaulting our economy*. NB, Great Britain.
- Learning 2.0: <http://plcmcl2-things.blogspot.com>
- Pandia Metasearch: <http://www.pandia.com/metasearch/index.html>
- Skoolaborate: <http://www.skoolaborate.com/>
- Top 10 Tools for Learning 2007: <http://www.c4lpt.co.uk/recommended/pdf.html>
- Top 100 Alternative Search Engines: http://www.readwriteweb.com/archives/top_100_alternative_search_engines_feb07.php

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