

A World of Opportunity: E-Learning and Atlantic Canada

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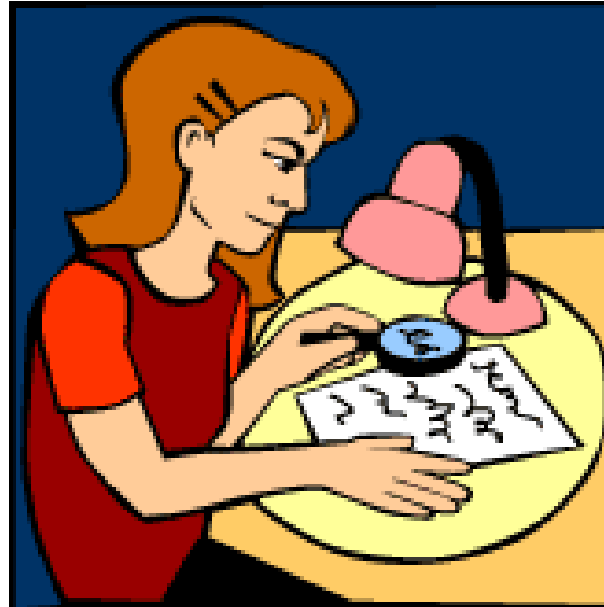
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Summary Slide

- Education on the internet
- Centralized online learning
- Internet culture
- Atlantic Canada

Education on the internet

- *The Slogan:*
 - “Tell and Test”



Education on the internet

- *The Story:*

- “Here’s how we created online learning at Assiniboine:

- First, we took an existing course
- Then, we designed a distance learning package
- Finally, we converted the distance learning to an online format”

Education on the internet

- *The Lesson*

- Online learning has followed the model of traditional distance learning
- It has been viewed as a form of publishing – mostly static, with a “shelf life”
- As such, designing and distributing learning is expensive
- This model that favours large, centralized institutions
- Britain's Open University, the University of Phoenix

Centralized online learning

- *The Slogan:*
 - “There’s only one way to do it”



Centralized online learning

- *The Story:*

- “Trying to create a template in PowerPoint
 - Microsoft help isn’t helping
 - I know there’s a good tutorial out there
 - But in Microsoft, there’s only one way to do it”

Centralized online learning

- *The Lesson*

- Despite the promise of “mass customization” there’s no practical way to do it
- You need massive servers, massive software (think feature bloat)
- It’s inherently unstable – think bottlenecks, house of cards
- Learning must be standardized and addressed to the novice learner.
- It must be addressed toward common goals

Interlude

- *A Mental Picture*

- **Imagine the internet as a centralized education service**
- **With a single, massive server**
- **With one search engine, one news feed**
- **What would it cost to publish a web page?**
- **What would it cost to read one?**

Internet culture

- *The Slogan:*
 - “There’s more than one way to do it”



Internet culture

- *The Story:*

- “I needed to find some cool images for my presentation
- Instead of accessing a central image service, I went to images.google.com
- I simply typed the slogan I wanted the image to match
- I picked the image most suitable for my needs”

Internet culture

- *The Lesson*

- **The internet is distributed – millions of servers, millions of authors**
- **A seamless infrastructure (HTTP+HTML) joins them in a network**
- **Anyone can publish to the internet; anyone can read any of the published pages**
- **There is no central authority; decisions and activities occur in an open-ended environment.**
- **This suggests an another approach to learning, one based on communication rather than publishing**

Atlantic Canada

- *The Slogan:*

- “Small
- Close to the ground
- First to the banana”



Atlantic Canada

- *The Story:*

- “How many of you use Google?”
- When was the last time you saw it advertised on TV?
- How did you hear about Google?
- Think!”

Atlantic Canada

- *The Lesson*
- **We are well positioned to offer an alternative to monolithic e-learning.**
- **We can build on our existing expertise:**
 - network technologies
 - peer-to-peer infrastructure
 - online learning content and distribution
- **We can adapt to a distributed, student-centered learning network.**
- **We can be first to offer our wares to the worldwide education marketplace**