We can, as we understand the prehistoric, understand the future by reading the artifacts.

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Blogging and RSS in Learning

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Overview…

- What is a Blog
- How is it used in Learning?
- Blogging Systems
- Blog Aggregation and RSS
- Examples of Blogs in Learning

What is a Blog

- Defined by format, not content
- A series of dated entries, most recent first
- Like a journal, but not necessarily a journal
  - http://www.rebeccablood.net/essays/weblog_history.html
  - http://news.com.com/2010-1071-281560.html?legacy=cnet&tag=bt_bh
  - http://www.robotwisdom.com/weblogs/
- Some example blogs in learning technology:
  - http://www.downes.ca/cgi-bin/xml/feeds.cgi?feed=all
- Ease of use of blogging software

Using Blogs in Learning

- Replacement for typical course web page
- Link to items related to course
- Organize in-class discussions
- Organize seminars and readings – group blogs
- Student created blogs as part of course work and assignment
  - http://www.crookedtimber.org/archives/000516.html

Blogging Systems

- Hosted
  - Blogger http://www.blogger.com
  - Live Journal http://www.livejournal.com
- Server
  - Movable Type http://www.movabletype.org/
  - WordPress http://wordpress.org/

Related Systems

- Content Management Systems
  - PostNuke http://www.postnuke.com/
  - Scoop http://scoop.cim.com.au/
  - Drupal http://www.drupal.org/
  - Plone http://www.plone.org/
- Wiki
  - http://c2.com/cgi/wiki?WikiWikiWeb
  - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

Blog Aggregation

- Blog Aggregation
  - Blogdex – http://www.blogdex.net
  - Popdex – http://www.popdex.com
  - Daypop – http://www.daypop.com
  - Blog Digger http://www.blogdiffer.com
  - Technorati – http://www.technorati.com

RSS Services

- RSS – stands for Rich Site Summary (or Really Simple Syndication, or is actually called Atom)

- Sample: http://www.downes.ca/news/OLDaily.xml

- RSS reading…

  – Bloglines http://www.bloglines.com

The Network is the Search
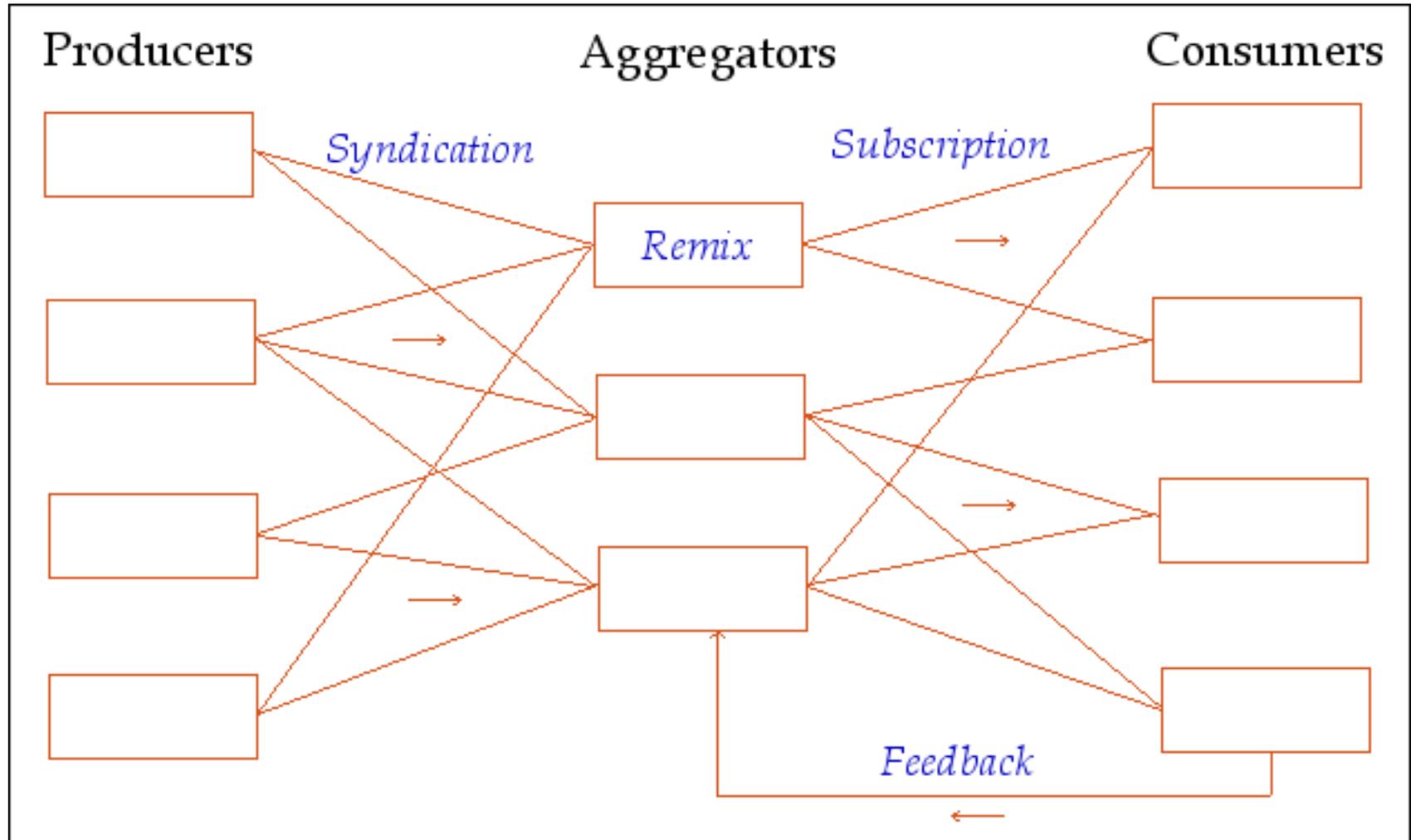
Putting It Together

- http://www.downes.ca – combines content management, blog, wiki, RSS
- The idea is that no one tool does the entire job, but the collection works really well

New Media

- Photos – Flickr – http://www.flickr.com

- Music – Podcasting - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Podcasting

- Moblogging - http://www.typepad.com/news/2003/07/moblogging.html

- Collaborative Blogging – FURL - http://www.furl.net/

- Social Networking – Friendster, Orkut http://www.orkut.com – LinkedIn, more…

Examples in Learning

- Weblogs at Harvard Law
  - http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/
- Weblogs at UPEI
  - http://weblogs.upei.ca/
- Educational Bloggers Network
  - http://www.ebn.weblogger.com/
- DDN
  - http://www.digitaldivide.net/articles/view.php?ArticleID=69
- BlogMeister http://landmark-project.com/blogmeister/

Theory and Practice

- Social Networks – Duncan J. Watts
  - http://www.changethis.com/10.LongTail
- Connectionism, Neural Networks, and self-organizing networks
- Constructivism and student centered learning
- Connectivism
  http://www.elearnspace.org/Articles/connectivism.htm

Connectivism

- Diversity of opinions.
- Connecting specialized nodes or information sources.
- Non-human appliances.
- Capacity to know more is more critical
- Continual learning through nurturing and maintaining connections
- Ability to see connections between fields, ideas, and concepts is a core skill

The Palm Tree and the Horse

Learning objects not as collections or aggregations, but as elements in an ecosystem

Downes.ca

- ## Learning Networks
  - http://www.downes.ca/cgi-bin/website/view.cgi?dbs=Article&key=1097292310

- ## Educational Blogging
  - http://www.downes.ca/cgi-bin/website/view.cgi?dbs=Article&key=1097292310

- ## The Semantic Social Network
  - http://www.downes.ca/cgi-bin/website/view.cgi?dbs=Article&key=1076791198

- ## More Than Personal: The Impact of Weblogs
  - http://www.downes.ca/cgi-bin/xml/papers.cgi?format=full&id=3