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How I became (blog) literate and what (blog) literacy meant to me

Stephen Downes

National Research Council Canada

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- **Is blogging different from writing?**
- **The day my life began:**
 - Jamie Bell
 - Hemlock Holmes and Higgens
- **Years later...**
 - The student newspaper years

- **How I became literate, then...**
 - Was accidental
 - Happened in the process of doing other things
 - Could have been different trans-literacy
- **Is literacy culture?**
 - What are literacy and culture:
 - One view – filling in the blanks (Kuhn)

- **What is the culture of learning?**
 - We heard from Barbara Ganley
 - It is a culture of control
 - And we have to wonder sometimes, whether control is necessary to achieve the desired outcomes, or whether control is the desired outcome
 - How does blogging change that?

- **It doesn't, necessarily**
 - Take, for example, Scott Wilson's discussion of organizational cybernetics
 - We *build* hierarchical relations into the model
 - The tension between:
 - Working within the system
 - Working with what works
 -

- **What is the system is broken?**
 - Ganley again: giving up on hope
 - Perhaps change will come from outside the system
 - We are not the change, we are not the revolution

- **What are the digital skills we are teaching?**
 - What is a hyperlink
 - Spatial awareness – movement of files
 - How to use a mobile phone
 - Content awareness
- **What do we teach ourselves?**
 - Freedom to make mistakes
 - What about – ‘how to cross the road’

- **What happens when we grant people their freedom?**
 - Lots of blogging, but not about the class
 - So should we grant freedom within a framework?
 - Is blogging even something that belongs in a class? “I’m scared of anything that’s got to be assessed” – a blog is a thing you do where you can think out loud

- **Blogging as identity and community**
 - Danah Boyd – defining oneself, one's community
 - Relation to character building in MUD, personal pages, MySpace
 - Not just the network of connections
 - Shared experiences – “Look, he’s standing where I did”

- **Self as creator vs self as worker**
 - Is teaching work? Is learning work?
 - Or are these instances of self-expression
 - Teacher asked: I want to know what my role is
 - Model of teaching: model and demonstrate
 - To teach: be the person you want your students to become

- **A final word**

- There is no code, no ethic, that will teach us how to be good bloggers, good teachers, good citizens
- What matters is that we are honest with ourselves, and that we share without reservation
- Culture – like literacy – is negotiated, a conversation between ourselves



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