

NRC-CNRC

*Institute for
Information
Technology*

Blogging and Learning

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National Research
Council Canada

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de recherches Canada

Canada

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



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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

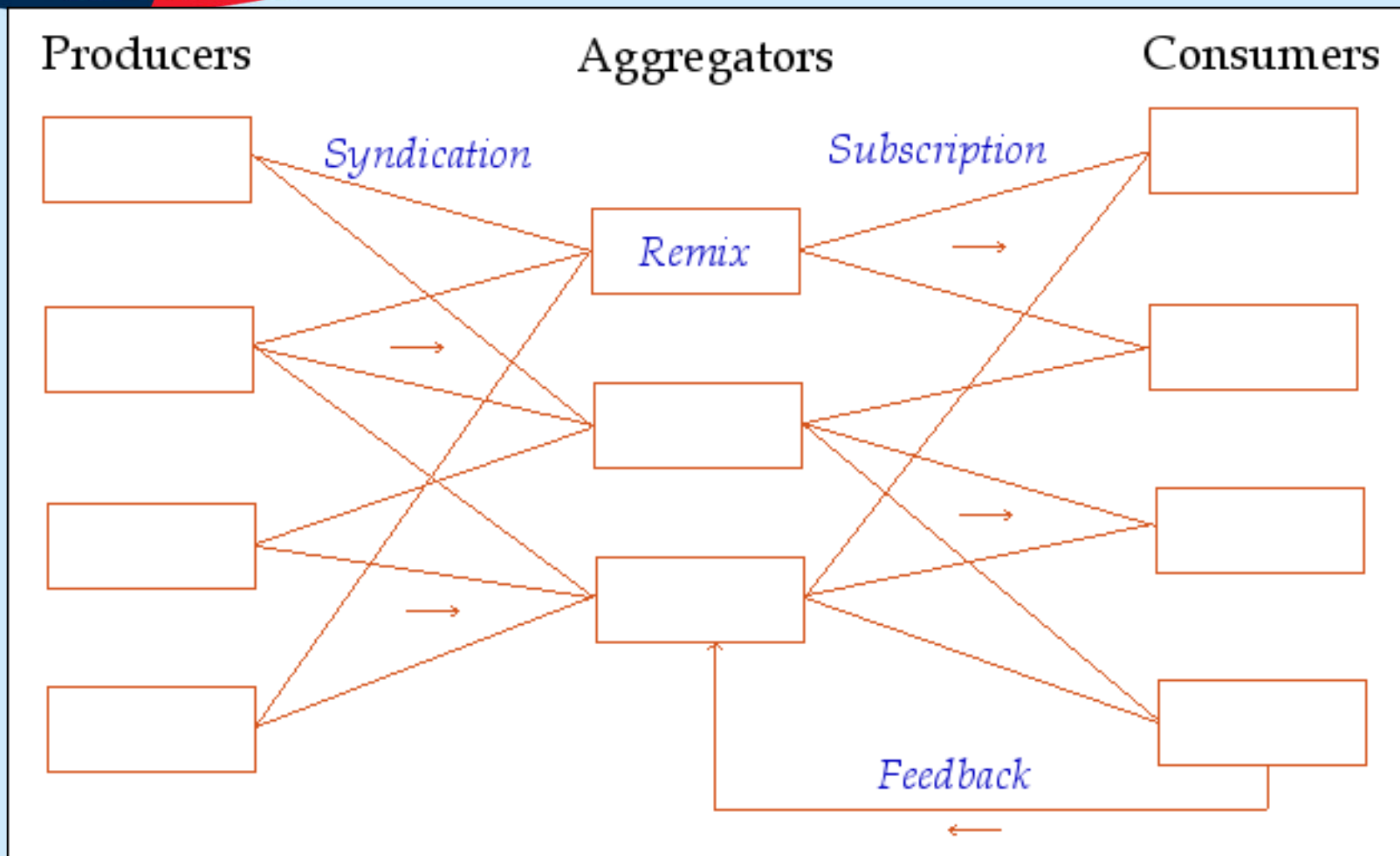
Blog Aggregation

- 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>

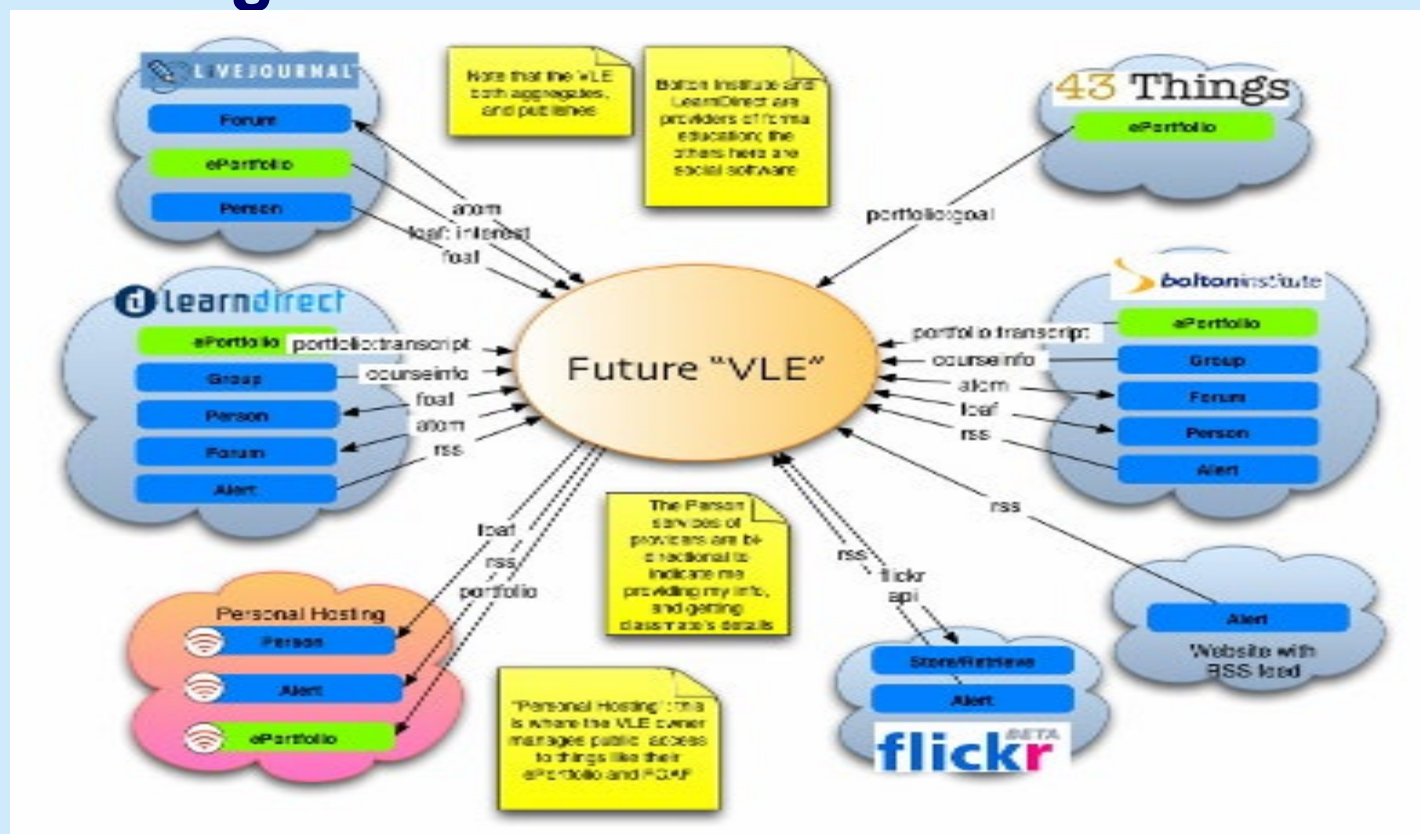
Connectivism

- 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

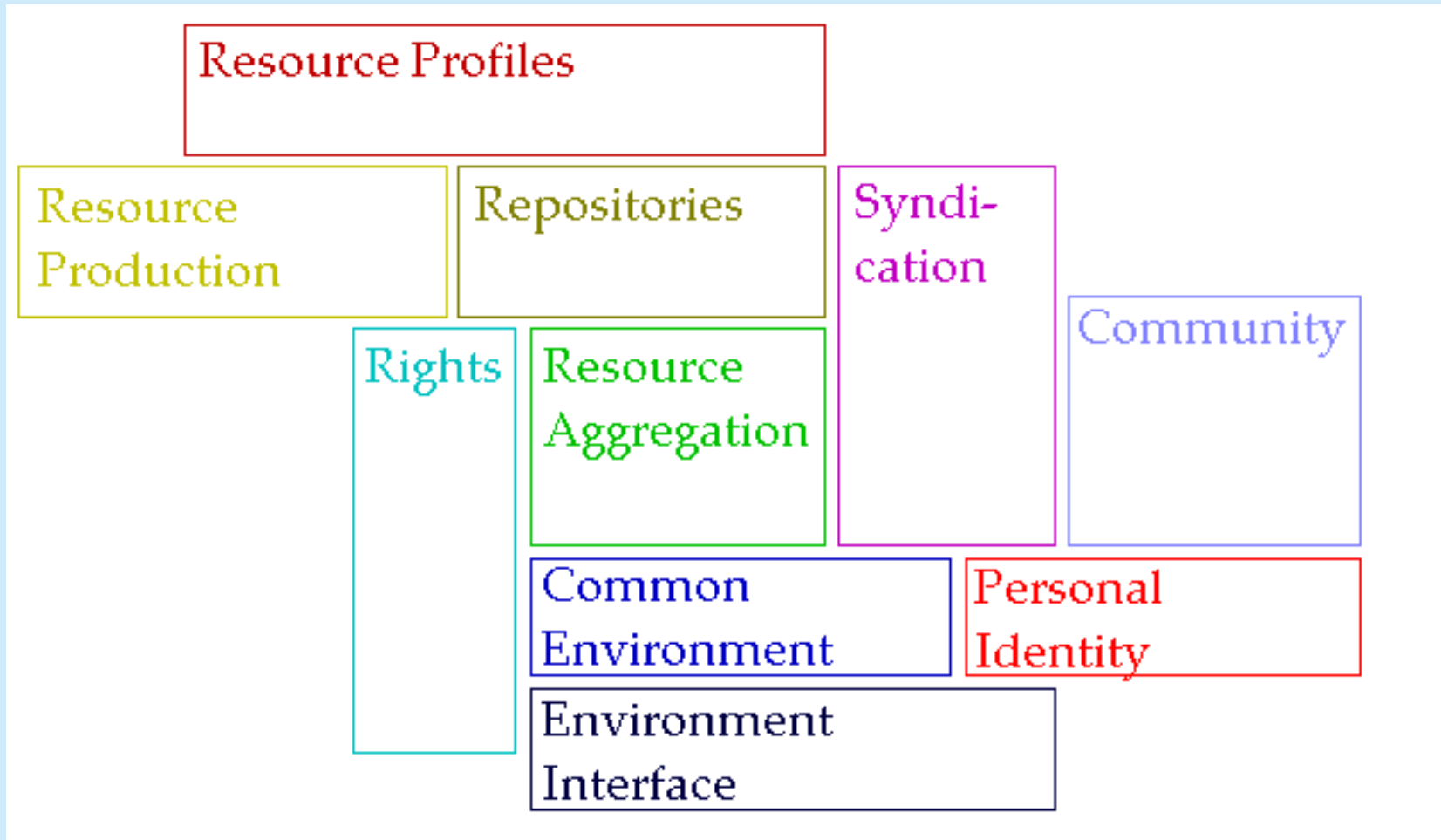
Learning Networks...

- Web of user-generated content...
- Social networks and communities (entails a genuinely portable (and owned) identity)
- Networks of interactions (aggregate, remix, repurpose, feed forward) – syndication
- The personal learning centre

E-Learning 2.0...



Learning Network: Architecture



The Palm Tree and the Horse

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



- 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>

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