



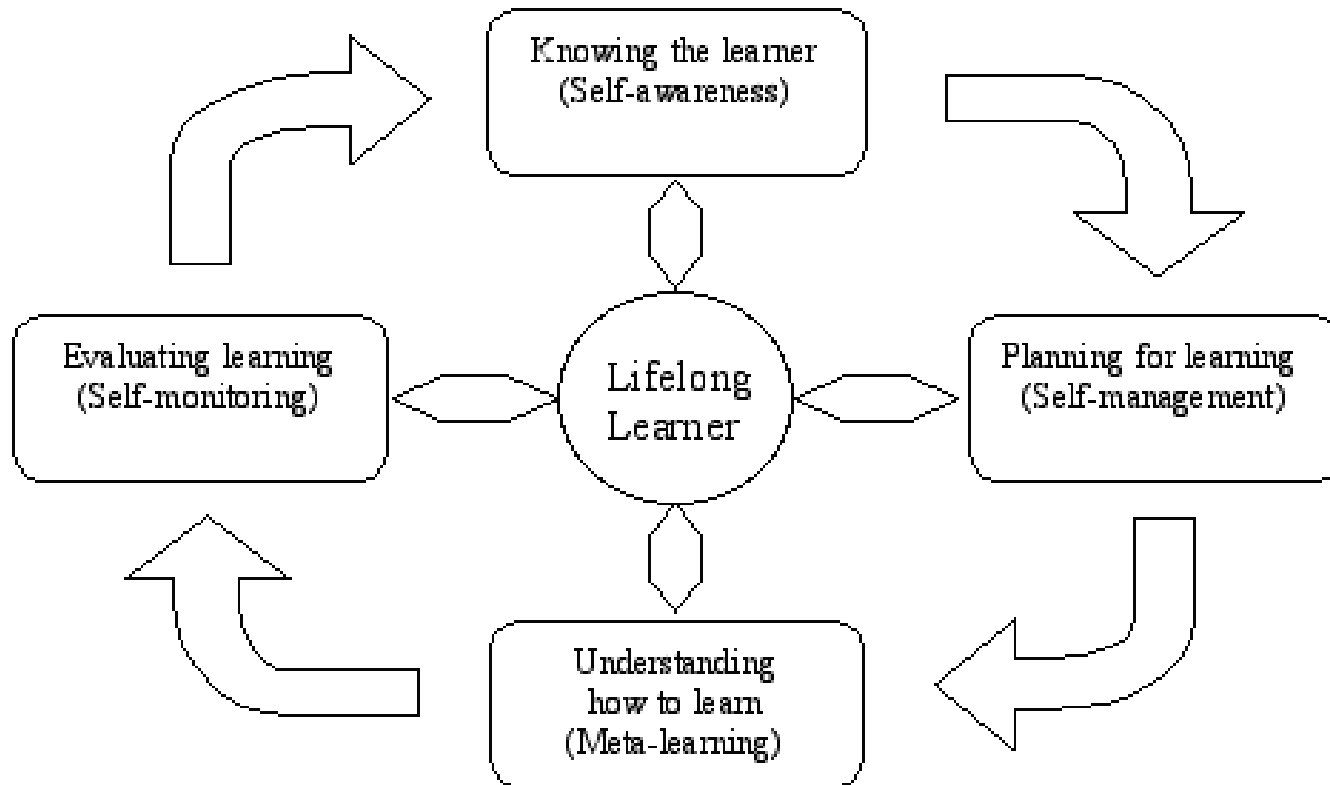
Life-Long Learning

Stephen Downes

June 4, 2013

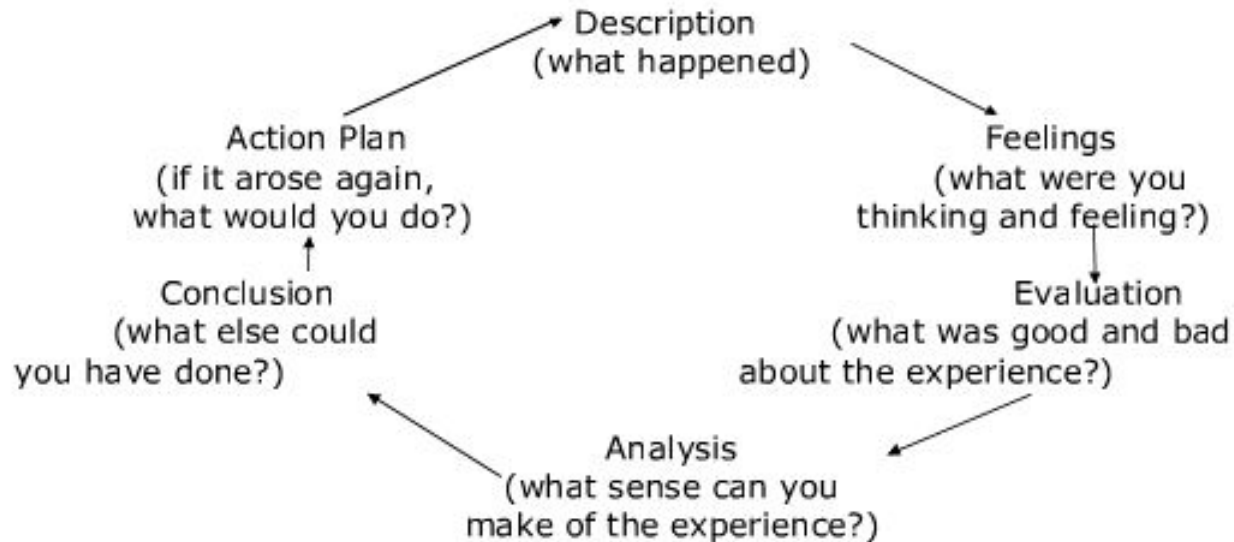


What do we think of when we think of life-long learning? Classrooms?

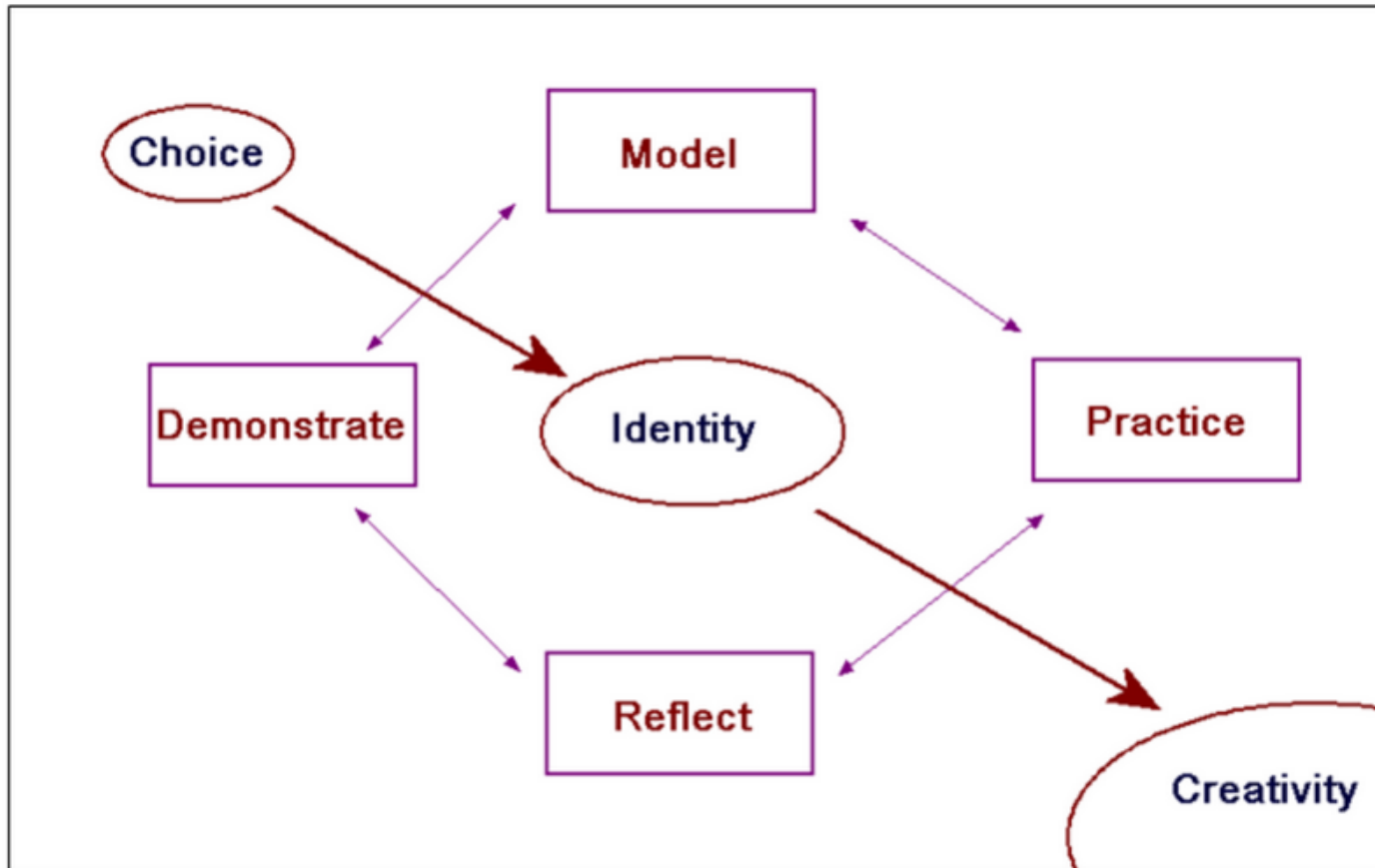


We think of life-long learning as an ongoing process, not a static event.

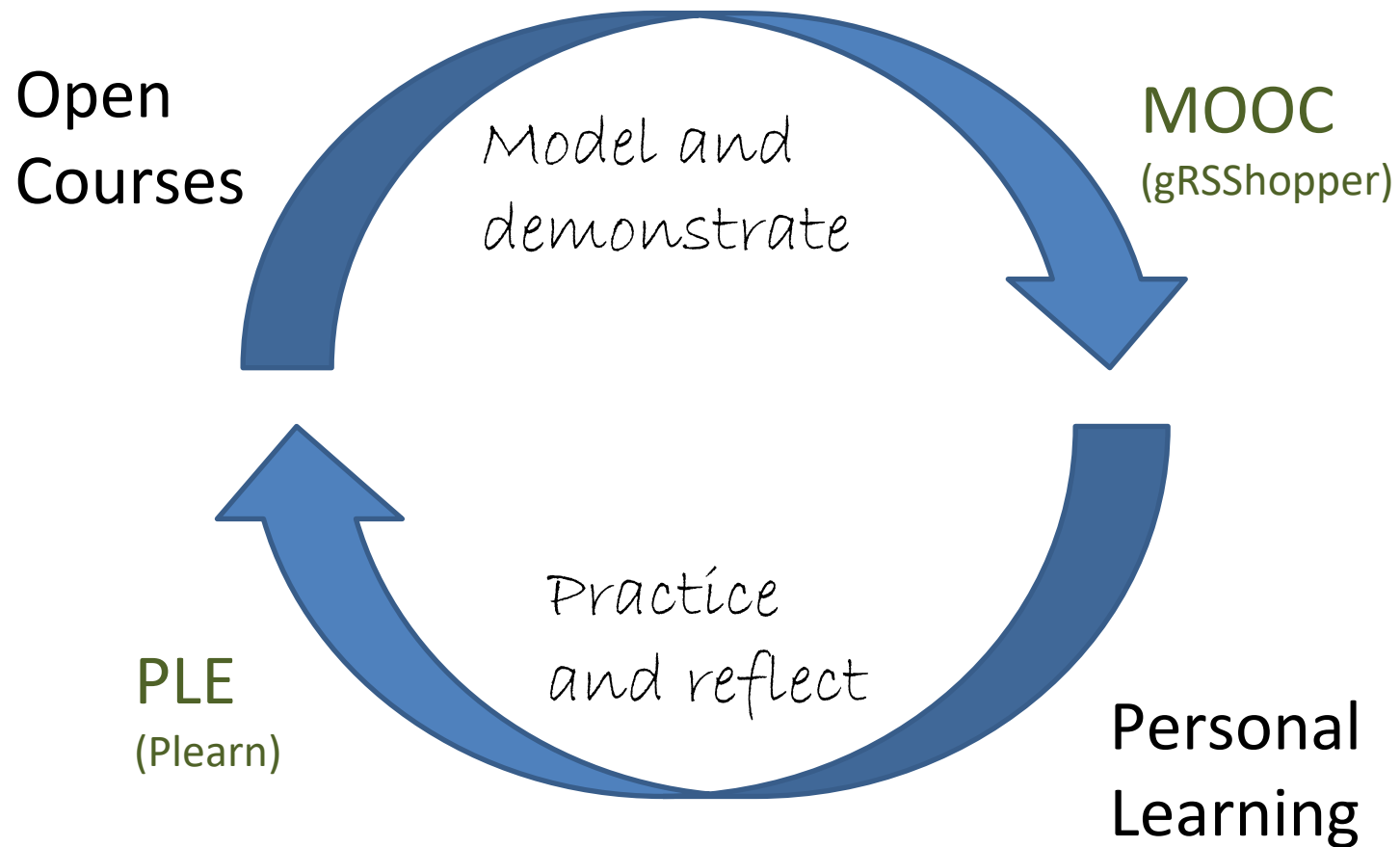
Gibbs' Reflective Cycle (1988 adaptation of Kolb)



We think of learning as an active process where we try things out and make sense of the experience



To teach is to model and demonstrate, to learn is to practice and reflect



There are two sides to the learning equation;
this presentation is focused on learning

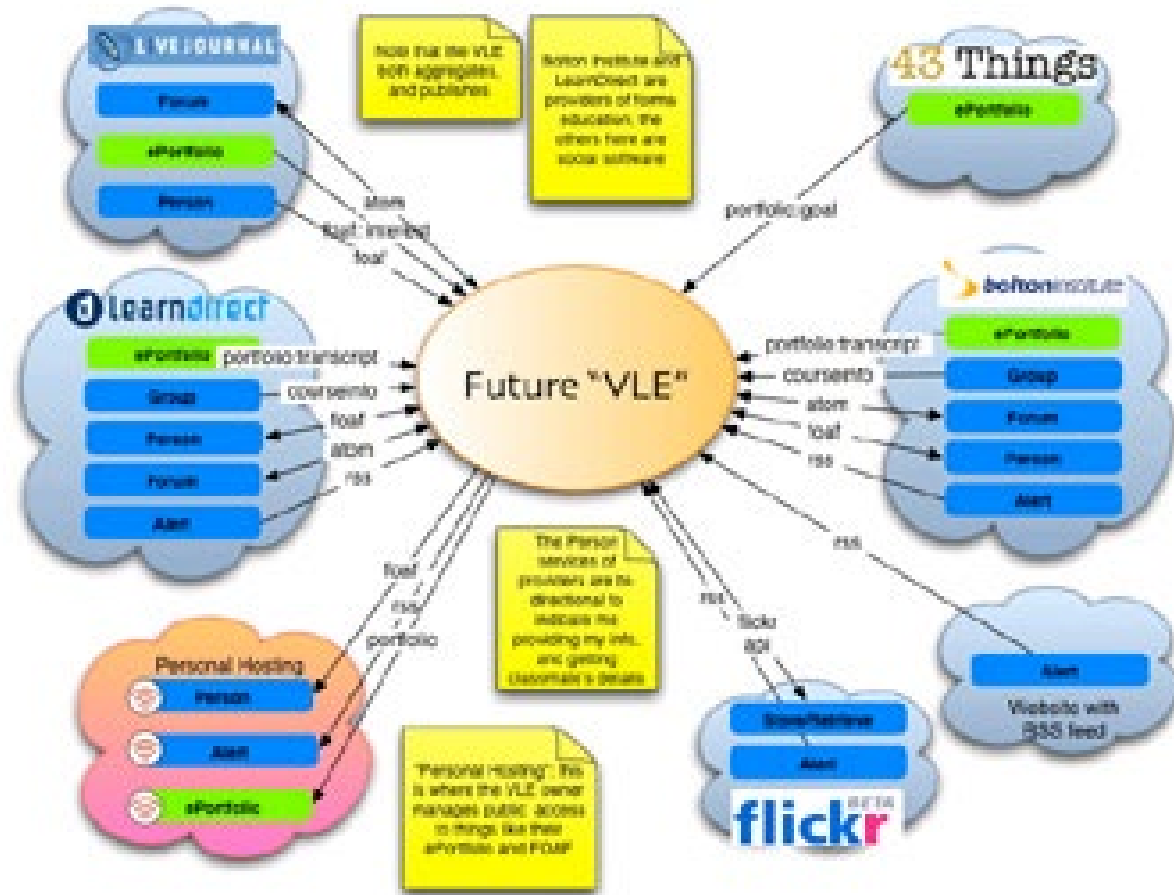


In this presentation, I invite you to think about how *you* learn

- Interaction
- Usability
- Relevance



Three principles



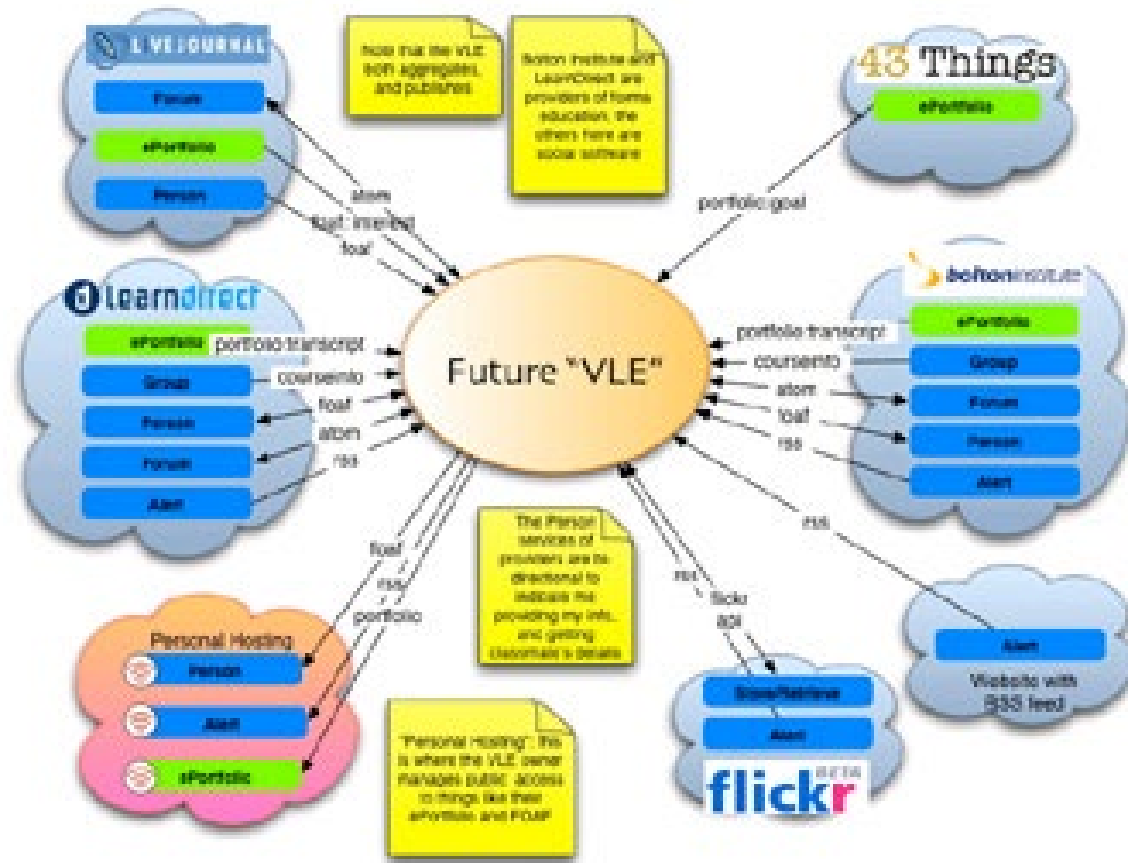
Interaction: participation in a learning community (or a community of practice) (or a network)

You cannot depend on traditional learning for interactivity...

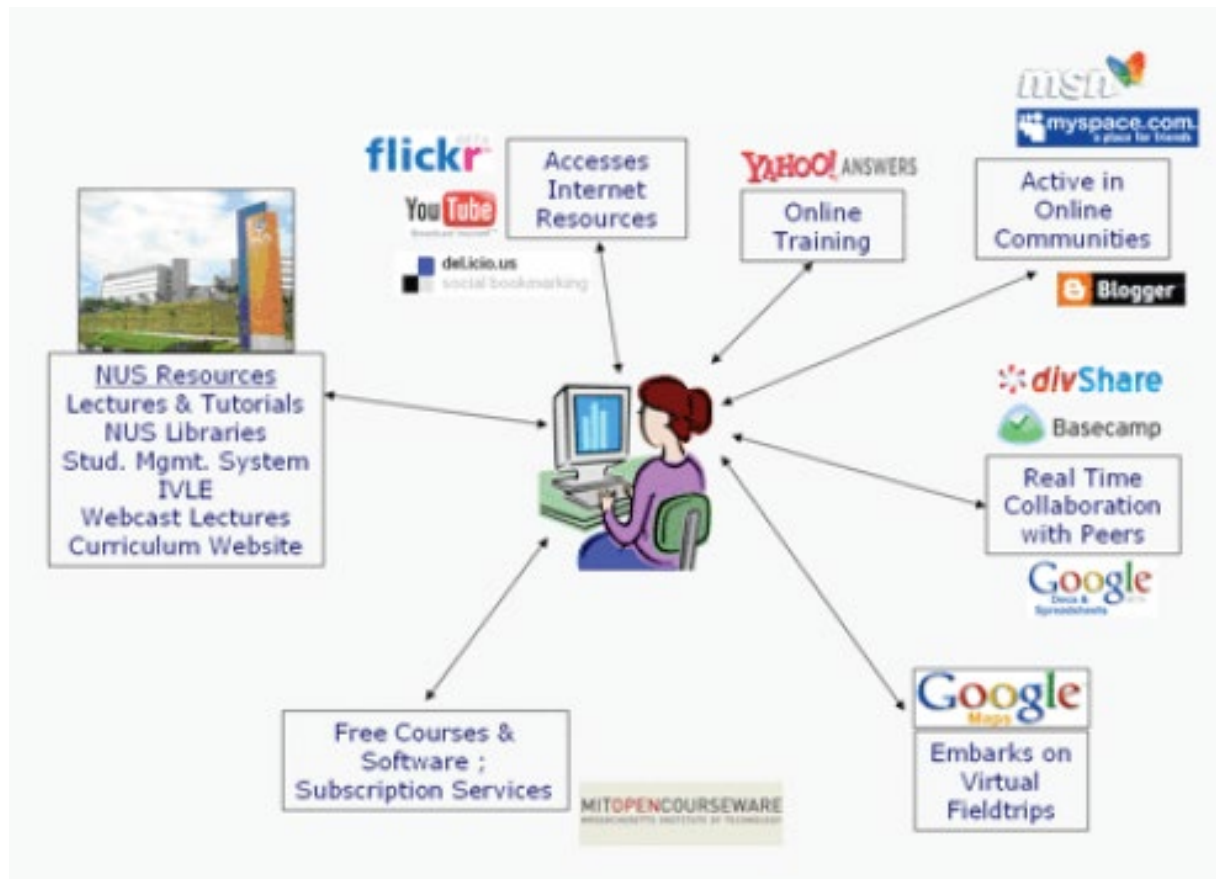
- Most learning based on the broadcast model
- Most interactivity separated from learning



Interaction: how to get it



Interaction: participation in a learning community (or a community of practice) (or a network)



Build your own interaction network, and place *yourself* at the center



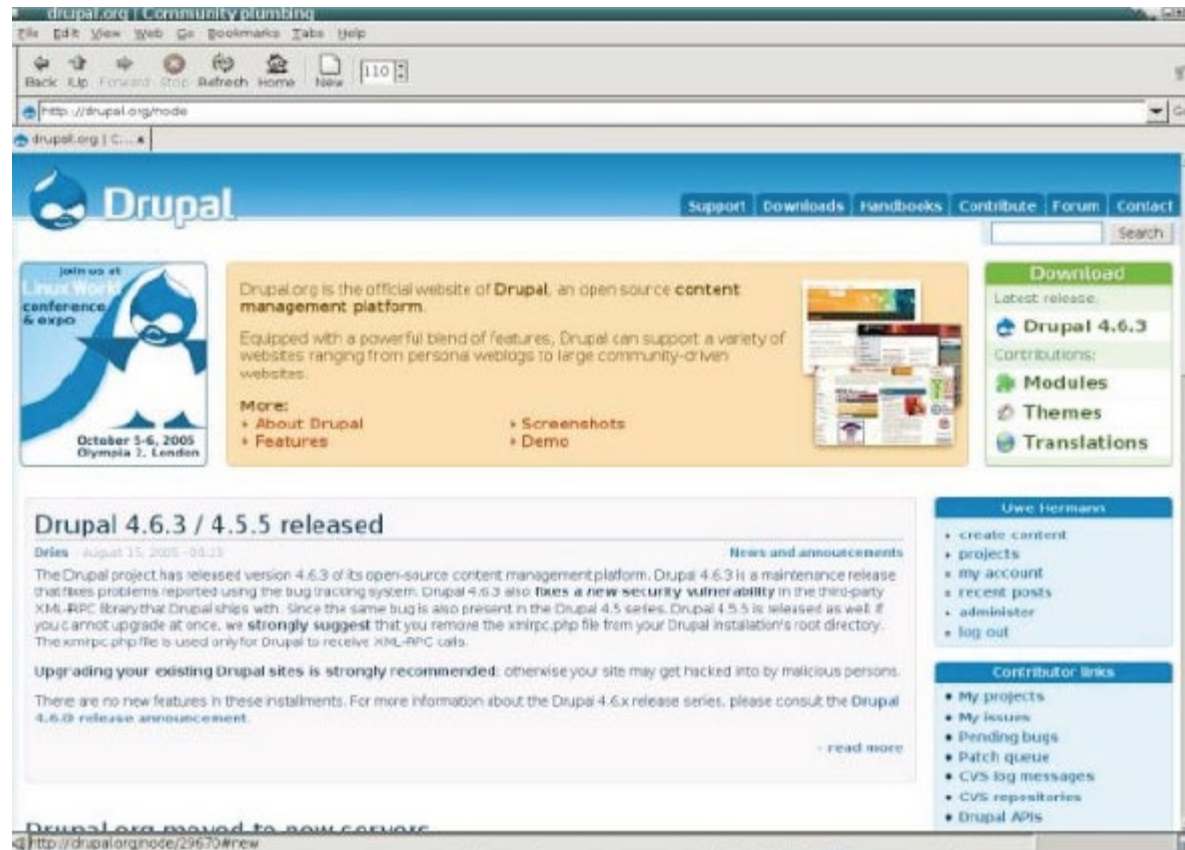
Usability: simplicity and consistency



– **Consistency** ... *I know what to expect...*

– **Simplicity** ... *I can understand how it works...*

Elements of usability



Consistency: organize your knowledge

Summarize, summarize, summarize

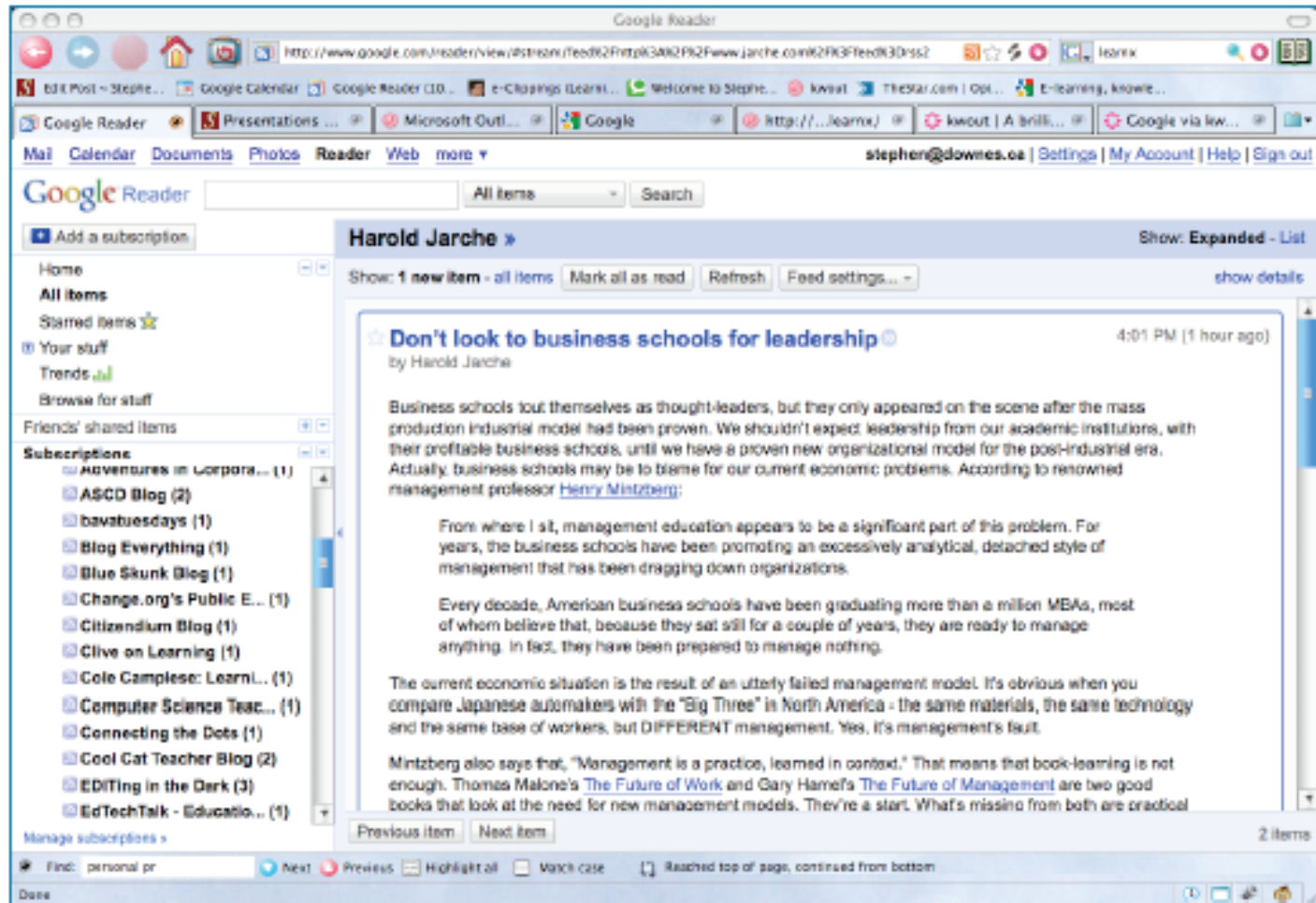
- (and then put it into your own knowledge base)



Simplify the message

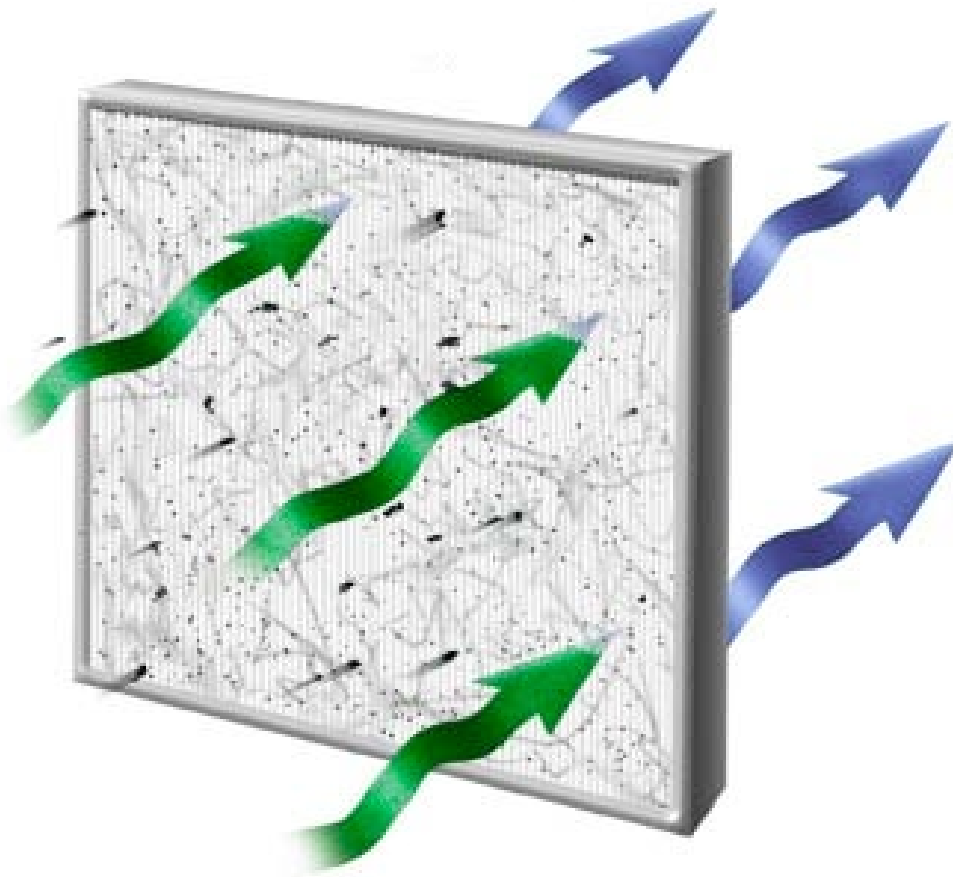


Relevance: learning that is important to
you now



Step One: maximize your sources

RSS, Twitter, Facebook, Google+ and so on (don't forget email)



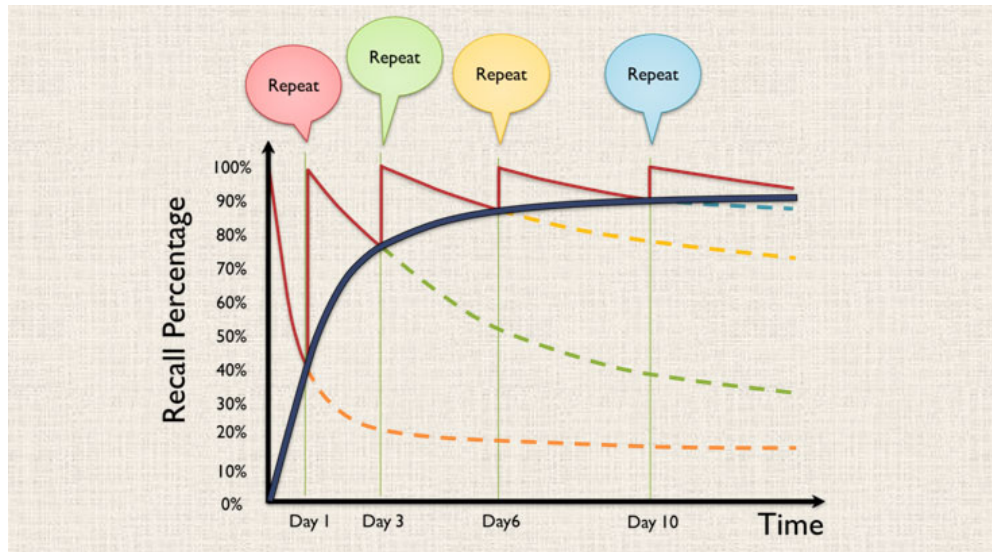
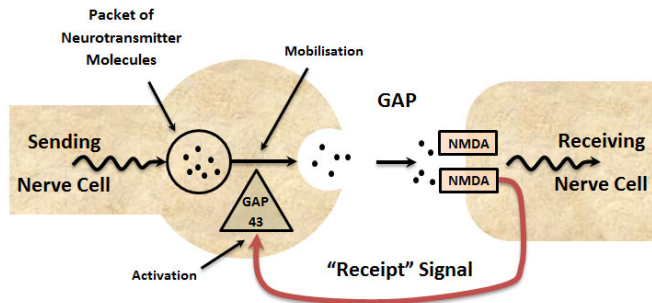
Step Two: filter ruthlessly

Information is a flow, not a collection of objects

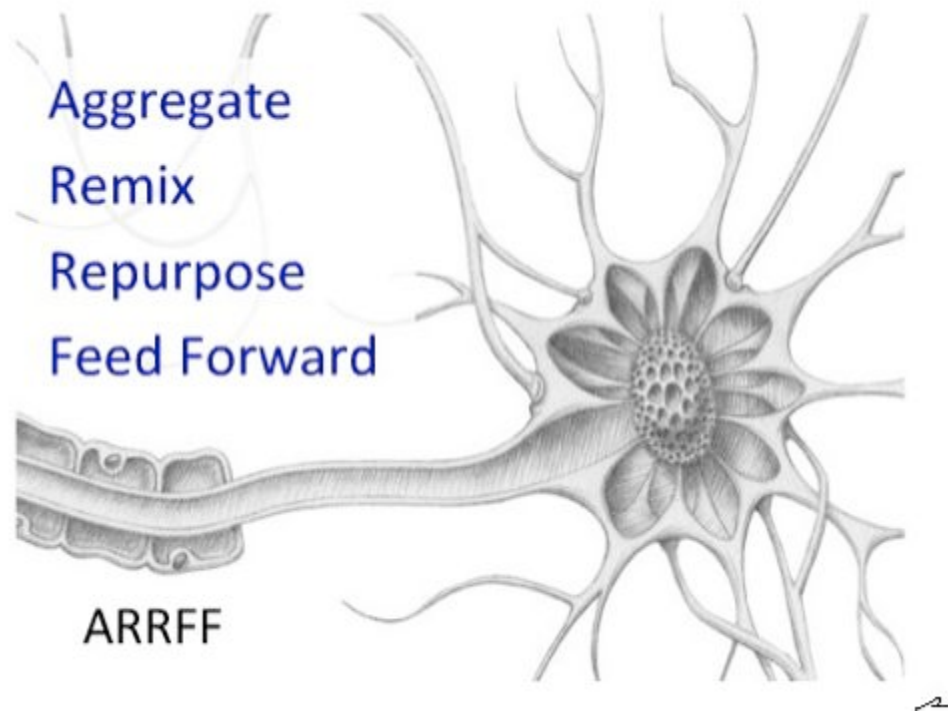
– Don't worry about remembering, worry about repeated exposure to good information

Relevance is defined by function, not topic or category

Remember...



Keep in mind *how* we learn: repeated exposure, formation of habits



Personal learning methodology



<http://www.downes.ca>