Reimagining Learning for a world of constant change

The 21st century entrepreneurial learner (a quick fly over)

our current context

21st C infrastructure: no stability in sight driven by continual exponential advances in computation

S-curve stable over decades.

In a world of increasingly rapid change, the half life of a given stock/skill is constantly shrinking, (perhaps as low as 5 years)

Stocks ===> Flows

- protecting/delivering authoritative knowledge
- participating in knowledge flows
- creating new knowledge (strong tacit component)
- genres fluid: institutional warrants less valuable
- canons/genres relatively fixed

Too Big to Know:
By david Weinberger (Jan, 2012)
“We used to know how to know. We got our answers from books or experts. We’d nail down the facts and move on. We even had canons.”

“But in the Internet age, knowledge has moved onto networks. There’s more knowledge than ever, but it’s different. Topics have no boundaries, and nobody agrees on anything.”

We, as learners, need new strategies and tools

Participation & the embodied mind (the essence of tacit learning)

Hand & Head
Core Values

Equity: educational opportunity should be available to all

Full participation: everyone should be engaged and contribute

Social connection: learning is built around relationships

Learning dimensions

content ———> can be taught

skills ———> can be mentored

dispositions ———> can be cultivated

Dispositions of an entrepreneurial learner.

curiosity – driven by awe
questing – seeking, uncovering, probing ... but always doing (curiosity in action)
connecting – listening to others, engaging...
reflecting – on performance with the help of cohorts. Reflective practitioner

Today’s kids – creating in a multi-modal world

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Quite a different public library than I knew
but how might we approach learning in the 21st century more generally?

Connected/blended Epistemology

Homo Sapiens
man who knows
content/things
The maker movement and beyond

Homo Faber
man who makes
Tools as instrumental

Harry Potter Worldwide Movement

Fanfiction.com
65,000 stories & podcasts

Fanfiction.net
6,314 communities of interest
1,774 discussion forums
386,000 stories archived

Are we prepared for students used to creating their own fan collective, intertwined with a networked imagination?

A more connected/blended epistemology

Homo Sapiens
man who knows
content/things & CONTEXT
Tools as instrumental

Homo Faber
man who makes
This could mean many things...

A more social view of learning

Cartesian View of Learning
understanding is socially constructed. making knowledge personal

Pedagogy as knowledge transfer
we participate therefore we are...
Ah, let me change the music of a film and I can alter not only its meaning but also what you actually “see”.

Ah, in a fluid world judgment and critical thinking is more important than ever... reading context is king the millennials believe there are no authoritative sources!

A pathway forward
Blending epistemologies for combining learning in school with learning in the wild

Learning Networks: with an infrastructure that unifies all these resources

From Networks to Ecosystems: and a platform that scaffolds these

Cloud + Mobile + Social + Big Data + Badges (OBI)

The Bigger Picture

A Fundamental Transition in how today’s millennials create their own identity

I am what I wear/own/control I am what I create, share and others build on.

And the ‘others build on’ is critical.