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Improving Instruction: Metaliteracy through Crowdsourcing in the Classroom

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Improving Instruction
Metaliteracy Through Crowdsourcing in the Classroom

A Presentation by
Ilana Stonebraker
Chris Gibson
August 1, 2014
Today’s Learning Objectives

- Explore
  - How Crowdsourcing Reflects Metaliteracy
  - How Metaliteracy Informs Crowdsourcing
“Metaliteracy expands the scope of traditional information skills (determine, access, locate, understand, produce, and use information) to include the collaborative production and sharing of information in participatory digital environments (collaborate, participate, produce, and share)” (p. 1)
Metaliteracy Learning Objectives

• Goal 3: Share information and collaborate in a variety of participatory environments
• Goal 4: Demonstrate ability to connect learning and research strategies with lifelong learning processes and personal, academic, and professional goals
Crowdsourcing is an “online distributed problem-solving and production model that leverages the collective intelligence of online communities to serve specific organizational goals.”
A shift **in how media travels across the culture.**

**Distribution** as we have traditionally understood it in the era of mass media where **content flows in patterns regulated by decisions made by major corporations** who control what we see, when we see it and under what conditions.

**Circulation**, a hybrid system, still shaped top-down by corporate players, but also bottom-up by **networks of everyday people**, who are seeking to move media that is meaningful to them across their social networks, and will take media where they want it when they want it through means both legal and illegal.
As the student landscape changes, so must education. Participatory culture and technology has created a new dimension to education. Crowdsourcing is a way to utilize the resources available to educators and students. This talk will focus on how changes in education methods with the ability to create success in the classroom and office.
The Smartest People I Know

• My Grandfather
• My Parents
History of Media

• Distributive
  – Written Word
  – Library at Alexandria
  – World Book

• Circulation
  – Internet

• What’s Next?
Problems With Education

• Outdated
• Educators Themselves
• Students Ourselves
  – Already Participating Elsewhere
1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000

Zetta  Exa  Peta  Tera  Giga  Mega  Kilo  Hecto

1 billion terabytes = 1 zettabyte

1 million terabytes = 1 exabyte
1,000 terabytes = 1 petabyte
1,000 gigabytes = 1 terabyte

Graphic by Kon Tito
Problems With Education

• Outdated
• Educators Themselves
• Students Ourselves
The shift towards a circulation-based model for media access is disrupting and transforming
“Rather, their untouchable quality has to do with the contexts within which we are introduced to these texts and the stained glass attitudes that too often surround them.”
AUTHORITY

Who is the author or creator?
What are the author’s qualifications and credentials for writing about this subject?
How reputable is the publisher?
Are there organization affiliations? And are they reputable?
Does the information provide references or sources for data or quotations?

ACCURACY

Where does the information come from?
How reliable and free from error is the information? How do you know?
Were there editors and fact checkers?
Is the information supported by evidence?
Has the information been reviewed or refereed?
Can you verify the information in another source or from personal knowledge?
Is the content primarily opinion? Or is it balanced with multiple points of view?
Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion?

- Often difficult to determine authorship of Web sources
- Search engines may retrieve pages out of context making it difficult to know where you are
- If author’s name is listed, his/her qualifications are frequently absent
- Publisher responsibility often not indicated or easily found

- Anyone can publish on the Web
- Web resources may not be verified by editors or checked for accuracy
- No standards yet developed
- Web pages move. If you quote this source, will it be available later?
- Web pages are susceptible to accidental and deliberate alteration
How We Can Fix it

• Educate the Educators
• Add Technology to the Classroom
• Change the Focus
• Acknowledge the Changing Power Dynamics of Information
Crowdsourcing

- Use Other People to Help Find Information
- Combining of Resources
How This Works

• Answer Systems
• Working Together
• Letting go of the Untouchable Quality of the Scholarly and the Academic
Real Life, Professional Impacts

• Never Work Alone
  – Not always working in formal environment
• Create New Professional Interactions in Classroom
• Questions Social Hegemony
• Less Person to Person, More Person to Information
CrowdAsk

• Crowdsourced Answer System for Purdue
• Students Ask and Answer Each Other’s Questions
• Intertwines Learning and Educating
Recent questions and answers in MGMT 175

- **Are there any databases not business concentrations?**
  answered 1 day ago in MGMT 175 by MaryDugan (810 points)

- **should we put citations on our powerpoint?**
  answered 1 day ago in MGMT 175 Summer Section 1 by MaryDugan (810 points)

- **When is the final Presentation due?**
  answered 2 days ago in MGMT 175 Summer Section 1 by Matthew S Wible (140 points)

- **Is the instructor bringing coffee to every class?**
  answered Jul 23 in MGMT 175 Summer Section 1 by MaryDugan (810 points)

- **How to get extra credits?**
  answered Jul 17 in MGMT 175 Summer Section 1 by Iiana Barnes (2,860 points)

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Ask a Librarian

If you have a question, comment or suggestion about your experience on CrowdAsk, we'd like to hear from you.

Give us your feedback.

Recent Questions

- Last Hour
- Last Day
- Last Week
- Last Month
Does the online library website have I place I can go to learn how to cite in the MLA citation format?

4 Answers

To add onto what other people have already said, inside some of the Purdue databases there is a tool that automatically makes citations for the information you want to reference. You go to the top tool bar of the database page and select any format you want. There are over ten choices including MLA, APA, etc.

answered Jan 30 by Morgan T Marshall (860 points)
selected Feb 28 by Morgan T Marshall
What Now?

- Allow Students to Educate Teachers
- Learning is not a One-Way Street
- Utilize all Tools Available, Including Students
Why Students?

• Versed With Participatory Culture and Technology
• Learning is Easier at a Younger Age
Crowdsourcing Could Replace Single User, Learner

What Does a Circulation Classroom Look Like? How is it Different From a Classroom Based on the Distribution Model?
• Education, student, media changing
  – Distribution vs. Circulation Model
  – High v. Low Academic Participatory Culture
• Crowdsourcing Reflects Metaliteracy
• Metaliteracy Informs Crowdsourcing
Conclusion

- Crowdsourcing Benefits Metaliteracy
- Metaliteracy Benefits Crowdsourcing
- Combination Benefits Students
Thank you! Questions?
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