

TLD Chapter 3

What's the difference between a profession and a craft, according to James Finn? - A profession, skills involved are founded in theory and research. A craft is more adjacent to a hobby and involves more relating to interests

Simonson describes the U.S. Department of Ed meta-analysis that is often misinterpreted as stating that online education is superior to traditional methods. Explain the roots of this misinterpretation. - It is difficult to outright say that distance learning is more effective. Even though on the surface, the study suggests it. Rather than just being the "distance" aspect of being the reason students did better it was more likely a combination of instructional elements allowing for the success of the learners.

Simonson discusses research on interaction.

- What does he suggest is the optimal class size for an online college course taught by a single instructor? - Avg size of 16 to 20.
- How does this match up with your own experience of online course size and interaction? - All of my previous in-person classes have not allowed more than 20 at a time. Which matches up with the research.
- What are the implications for institutions planning to save \$ by using large online class sizes? - Interaction between instructors and learners decreases, or is less effective.

Simonson describes common barriers to distance ed.

- Which of these have you encountered? - The one I have encountered in a professional sense is organizational resistance to change. In my organization I work for I have seen hesitation towards new technology used for the purposes of furthering our daily efforts. This combined with slow pace of implementation can cause issues with workflow. In terms of education there has not been similar.
- Which of them still seem to be a problem in your setting? - Lack of Staff for development. This can be a huge barrier. If there are not enough people to help develop, and create instruction.
- How have pandemic-related activities interacted with this list? - I would say the lack of development with respect to the people needed to know, what and how to help design instruction.

Why does Simonson say that it's a myth that instructor training is necessary for anyone planning to teach at a distance? **Do you agree?** - Yes. I think that training offers the ability to assist in better designing of distance learning. As with anything, being able to have training makes the difference for instruction, distance learning especially.

Why does he say that it's a myth to say that "The more interaction there is in a distance education class, the better"? - Interaction does not just automatically make a class better. Earlier forms of distance learning had little or slow interaction between instructors and learners. Although times have changed in terms of types of communication, the interactions available to learners.

Where Good Ideas Come From

A metropolis shares what key characteristics with the Web? - Connections & Flow of Information, Ideas, etc.

Why is this important? - The connections the web and metropolis expand what is possible in terms of where ideas generate.

Why does Johnson describe the FBI's computer systems prior to 2001 as a "hunch-killing system"? - The system kept knowledge from going up a chain of command and connecting other "hunches" The information was in a "pool" with a load of other information. It did not build networks and connect information to other agents.

At the end of chapter 3, Johnson notes the distinction between the deployment of Google News and that of the FBI's Automated Case Support System. Supposing the FBI took this lesson to heart – what might their adjacent possible look like (positive AND negative)? - with respect to how the launch of Google News went from an idea to launching in less than a year. While the FBI still utilized a case support system. Their adjacent possibilities were limited before and remained limited in terms of what is possible for speed and efficiency of the data. In terms of what can grow from that and expand the adjacent possible growth.

Preparing for the Digital University

This chapter reports on a **tertiary** study (p. 102) What's a tertiary study? - Yes, a study compiled our information that organize, gather and compile, or break down other primary or secondary in type information.

On p. 114 the authors list a number of major points on which most studies of online learning agree. Compare/contrast to the list from Simonson (p9) that we saw in week 2. - The keys between the two are on the support the learner received from the instructor. Combining this with collaboration and concepts for more creative idea generation with respect to the material at hand. Conversely in the Digital University study, the focus was more guided towards expressions for the learners.

The authors suggest that research supports the idea that instructors teaching in distance education settings need to either redistribute their responsibilities among a team of instructors or assign more obligations to students. Why? - When transitioning some of these responsibilities to students, it allows for the instructor to be more "hands-on," or focus more on design and layout, rather than many of the minute details that learners can handle themselves.

One of the most significant requirements for further adoption of online learning is the development of *well-designed courses with interactive and engaging content, structured collaboration between peers, flexible deadlines to allow students to pace their learning, continuous monitoring of student progress, and the provision of formative feedback when needed* (p.118). How does this statement line up with John Seely Brown's vision of a learning ecology? - It aligns itself in many of the same ways educators align themselves with one another. Wanting to create a cohesive, diverse learning environment, where all learners are welcome and free to learn as each one does best.

Mapping the Open Education Landscape

Is "Mapping the Open Education Landscape" a tertiary study? - Yes

This article is about "open education" (and MOOCs). Distinguish between "open education" and "distance education". What's an OER? (open educational resource) - Open Education refers to ideas, and

practices focusing on the expansion and utilization of education to the masses utilizing new technologies. Distance education is a more generalized concept referencing the type of learning being designed and taught by an instructor. With respect to OER, it relates to concept, technology, etc utilized in a manner with which an educator can share, design, build information. An example would be Creative Commons License.

A portion of the article describes a process for “creating a network from references in a seed paper” (p114). Think back – what does this sound like that we’ve been reading about recently? - This concept fits most in with the idea of the liquid network.

Look at figure 4 on p. 116. What does this suggest about the adjacent possible? - The utilization/creation of sources is ‘almost’ indefinite.