

What's so good about open educational resources?

Steve Wheeler
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What's so good about open educational resources?

...and how does OER contribute to quality teaching and learning?

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Education...

“...allows children to develop the skills and confidence they need to strengthen their societies, break the cycle of poverty and build peace in their communities.”

- Save the Children

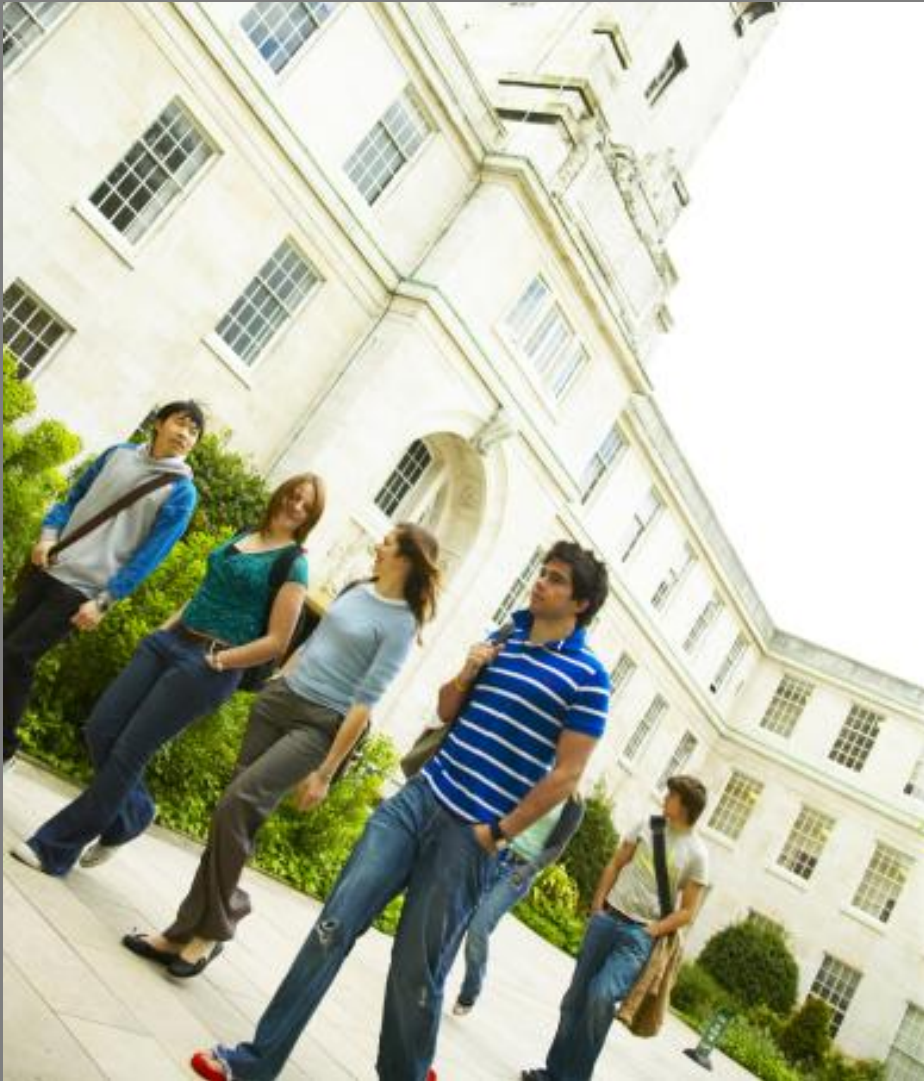
If you think education is expensive, try
ignorance ~ Derek Bok



cc Steve Wheeler, University of Plymouth, 2009

<http://detroityes.com>

The problem...



*“For the first time
we are preparing
students for a
future we cannot
clearly describe.”*

– David Warlick

Open Educational Resources

“The open provision of educational resources, enabled by information and communication technologies, for consultation, use and adaptation by a community of users for non-commercial purposes”

- UNESCO (2002)

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*“We need
diversity of
thought in the
world to face
the new
challenges.”*

~ Sir Tim Berners-Lee



www.topnews.in

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Creation of open source software and development tools. To produce, store, share, search, access content. Spaces for communities of learning and practice.

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Development of Open Standards and licensing tools.

“The present speed of information based on new technologies has undermined traditional expert driven processes of knowledge development and dissemination.”

~ Dave Cormier



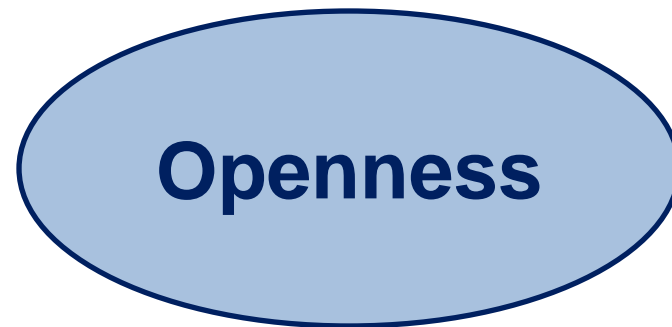
www.aaceconnect.org

What can OER do?

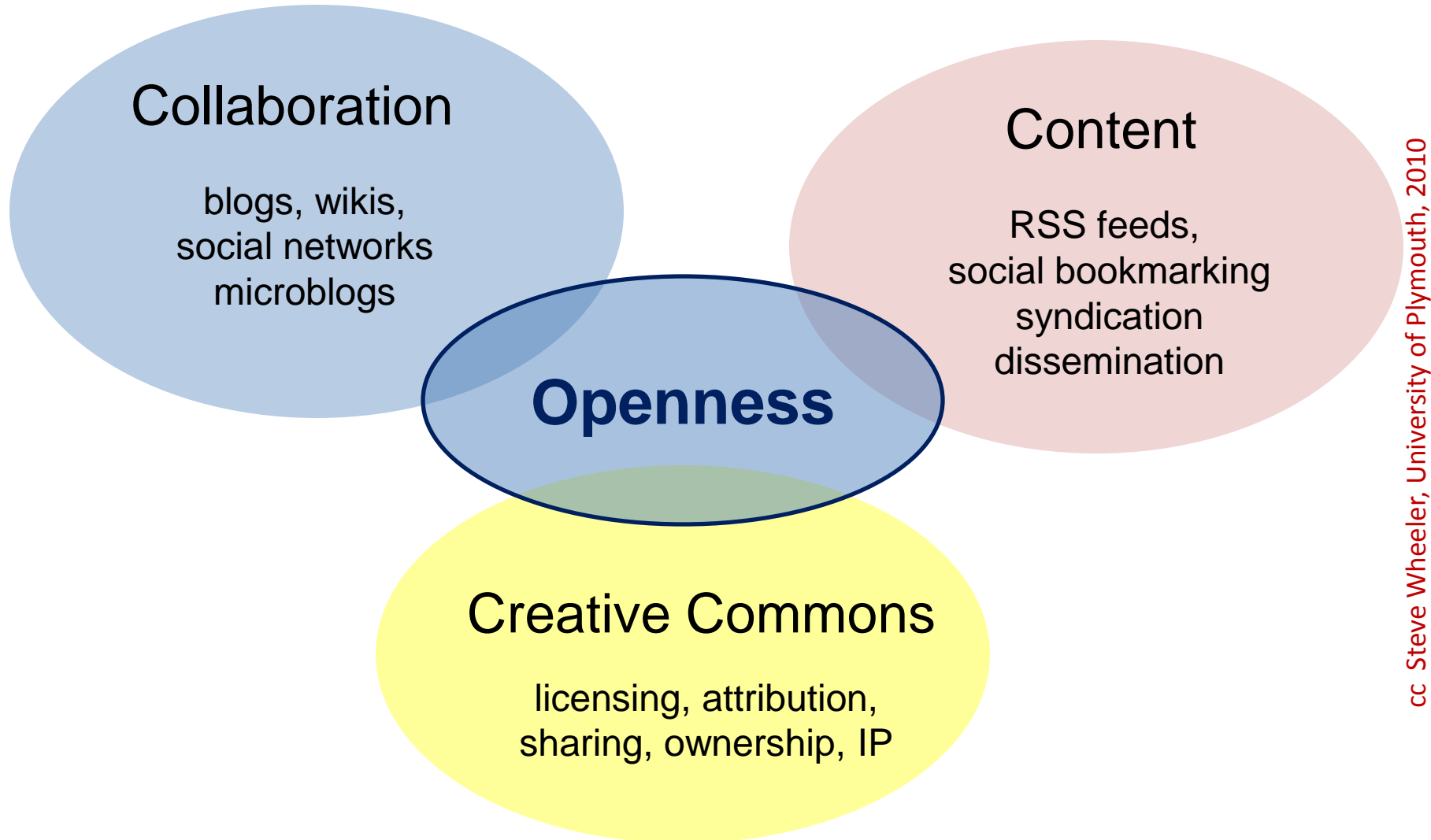
- OER emphasises learning communities and learner engagement
- OER supports development of skills needed for problem solving
- OER creates opportunities for personalised learning
- OER allows students to create and share their own content

OER and Web 2.0

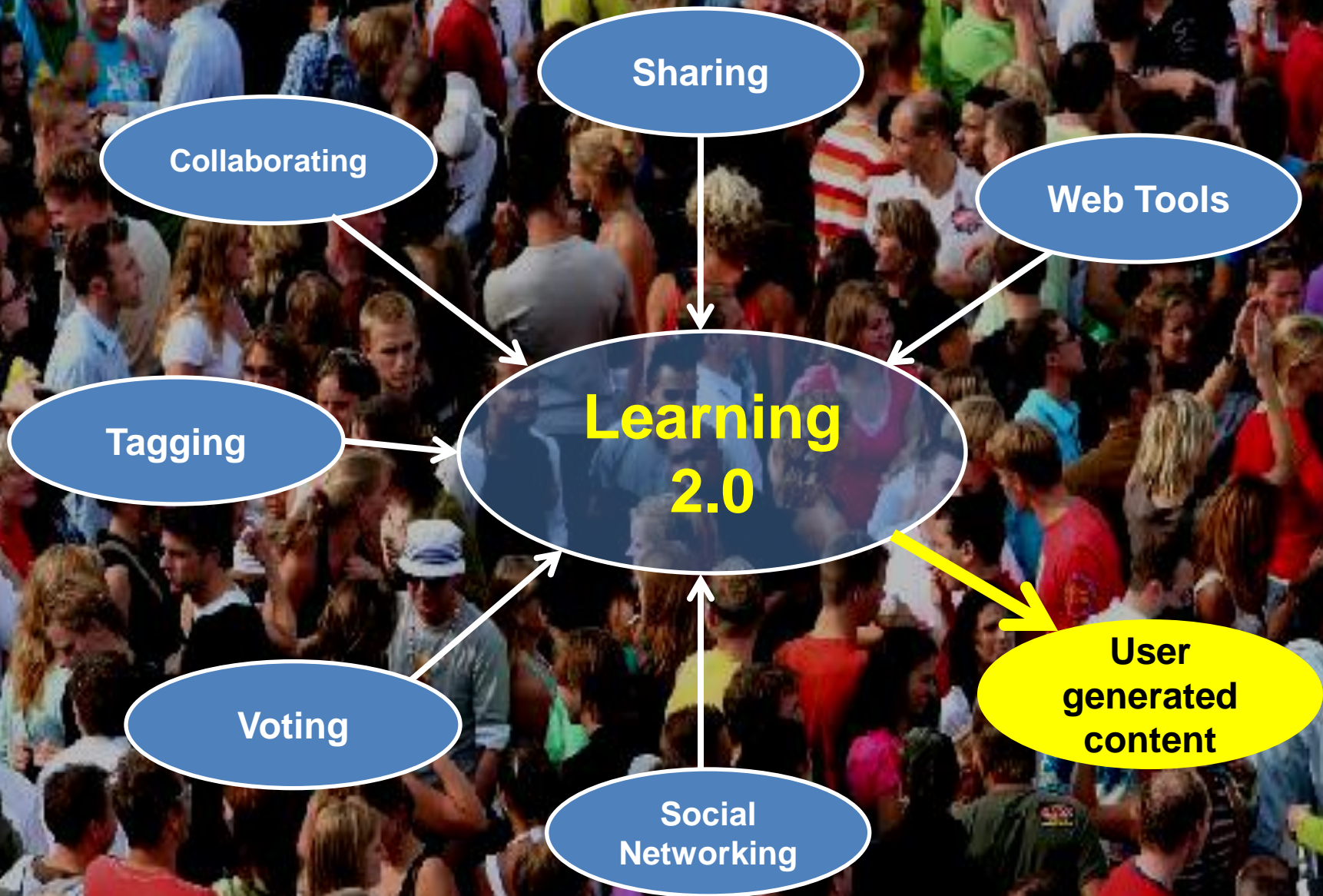
The fundamental principles on which Web 2.0 tools are founded in terms of content, tools and services is...



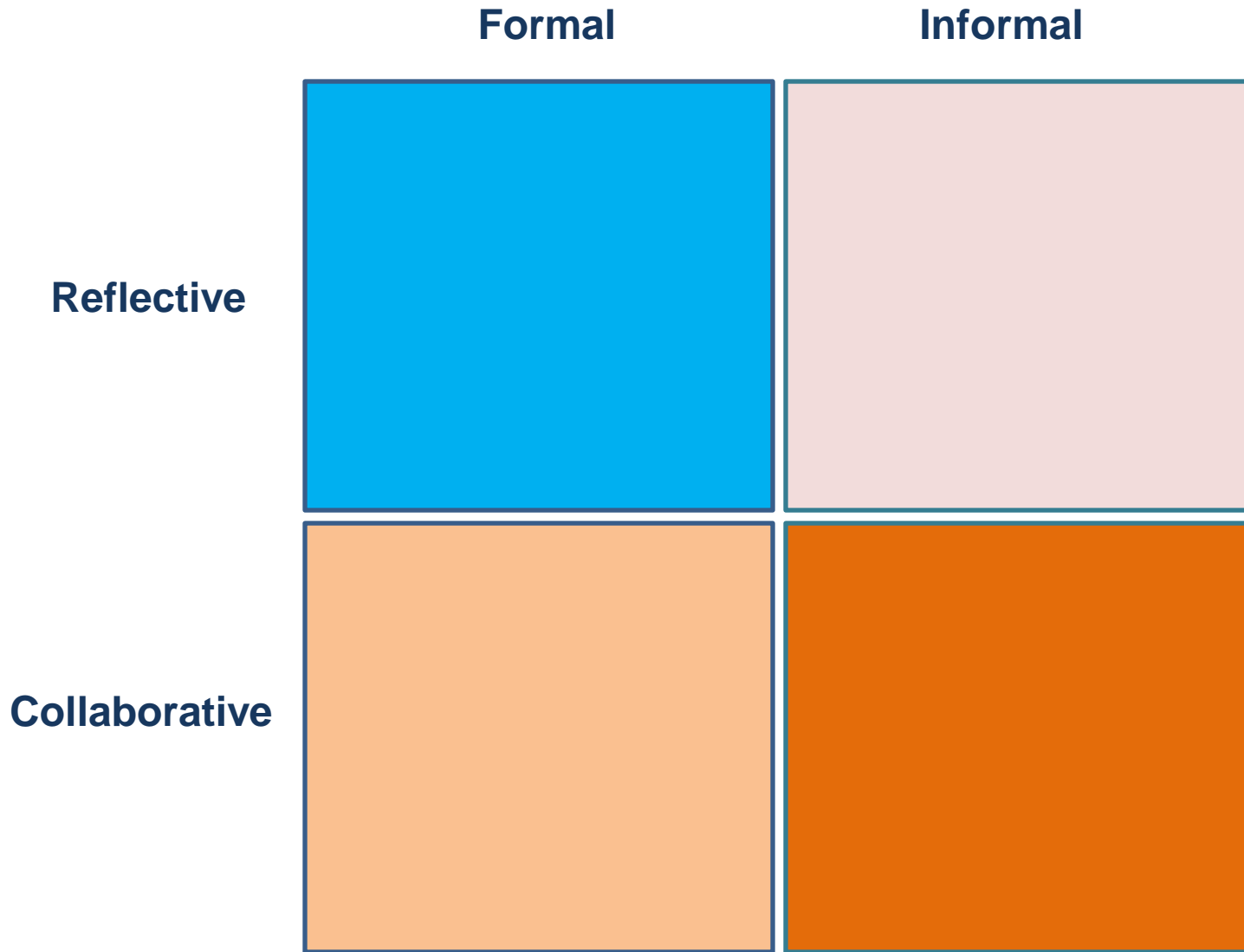
OER and Web 2.0



Architecture of Participation



Modes of learning



Modes of learning

	Formal	Informal
Reflective	E-portfolios Essay writing	Blogging Microblogging
Collaborative	Group work Co-operative learning Discussion group Wiki	Social networking

Advantages of OER



<http://static-p3.fotolia.com>

Sharing development costs of learning resources among institutions and professional communities means a better return on public investment

Adapted from: Holotescu, C. (2007) Open Educational Resources and FLOSS

Advantages of OER

Promoting digital competencies for the knowledge society. Tools and content that enable learners to develop their creativity and critical thinking.



<http://dyslexicbrian.com>

Advantages of OER



<http://static.squidoo.com>

Improving the quality of content. Quality control, feedback and improvement across the alliances, communities and networks that share the content.

Advantages of OER

Supporting lifelong learning and social inclusion. Accessibility of resources previously unavailable to specific groups of people.



<http://www.flaglercomputerclub.com>

Advantages of OER



<http://www.uh.edu>

Offers flexibility in choosing from a broader range of subjects and topics for teaching and learning

Advantages of OER

Saves time and effort through the reusing of resources for which IPR/ Copyright issues have already been resolved



<http://qbn.com>

Where are we today?

The current focus in OER Initiatives is mainly on building **more access** to digital content

Too little consideration is given to how this will support educational practices, promote quality and innovation in teaching and learning.

Opal Background

- OPAL extends the focus beyond 'access' to 'innovative open educational practices' (OEP)
- Open Educational Practices:
 - Practices which support the (re)use and production of high quality OER through institutional policies,
 - promote innovative pedagogical models, and
 - respect and empower learners as co-producers on their lifelong learning path.
 - OEP address the whole OER governance community: policy makers, managers/ administrators of organisations, educational professionals and learners.
- **In short:** OEP is the use of OER to promote quality and innovation in education

Collective intelligence

“If you put together a big enough and diverse enough group of people [.....] that group’s decisions will, over time, be intellectually superior to the isolated individual, no matter how smart or well-informed he is”

~ James Surowiecki

<http://thekaoseffect.com/>

Collective intelligence

Wisdom of crowds?

...or Stupidity of mobs?

CONCEDE Project

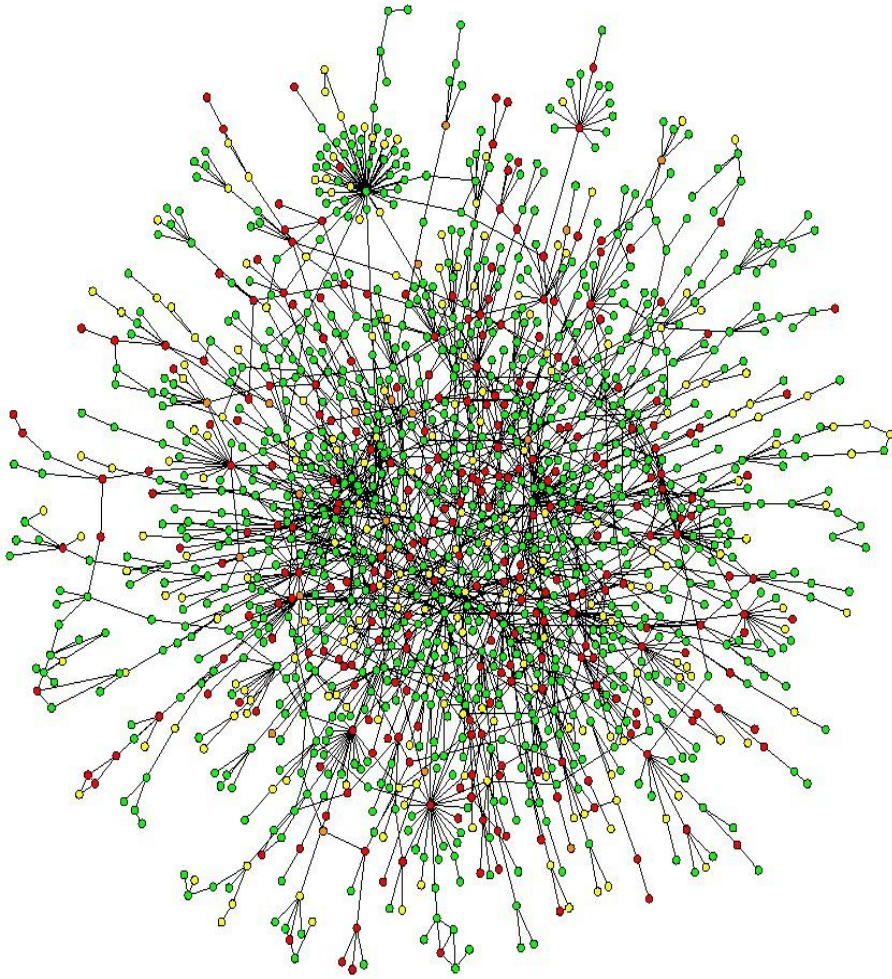
CONtent Creation Excellence through Dialogue in Education

- Benchmarking of User Generated Content
- Evaluation of UGC uses in education
- Creation of guidelines for the use of UGC

“It's not what you know that counts anymore. It's what you can learn.”

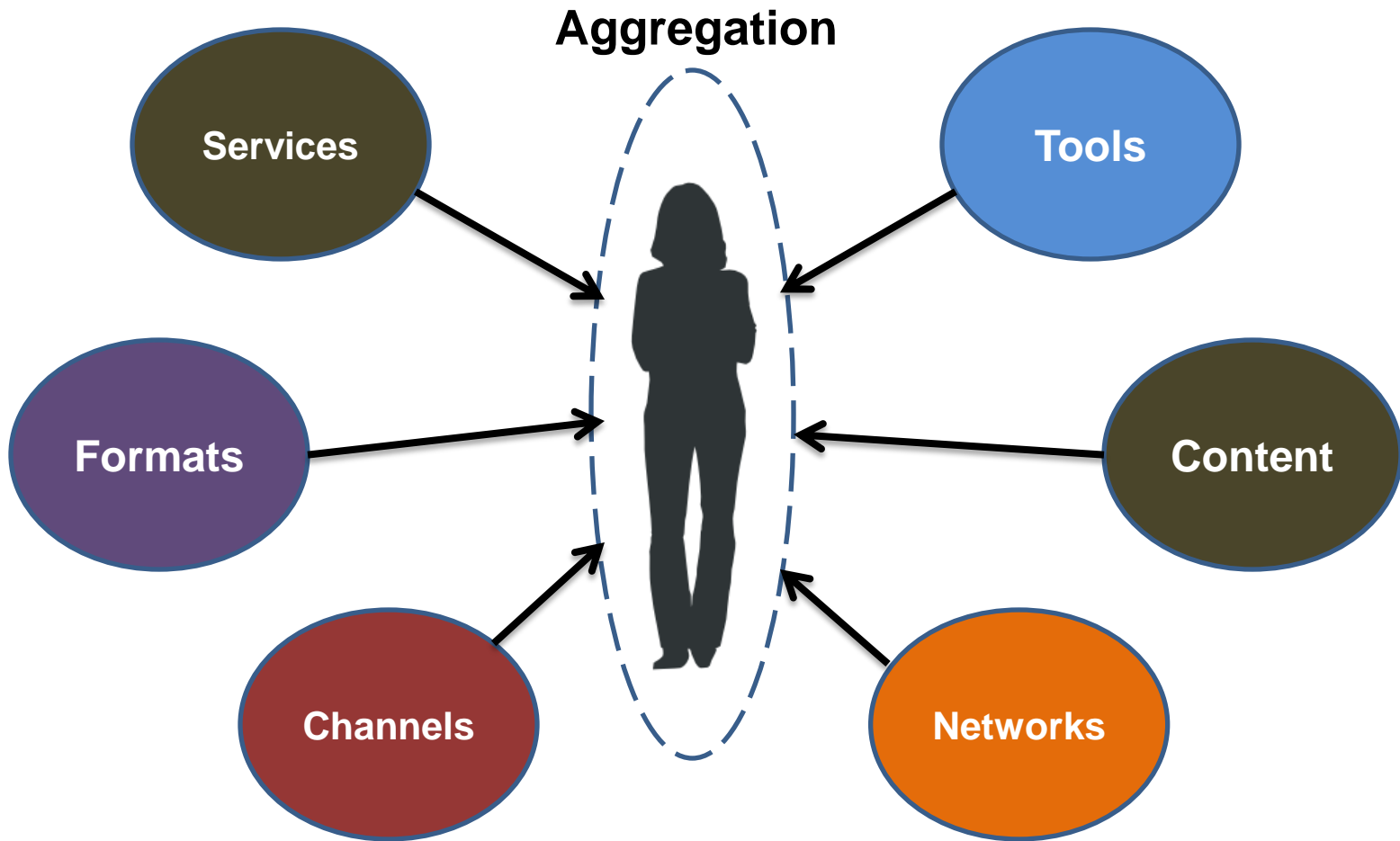
~ Don Tapscott



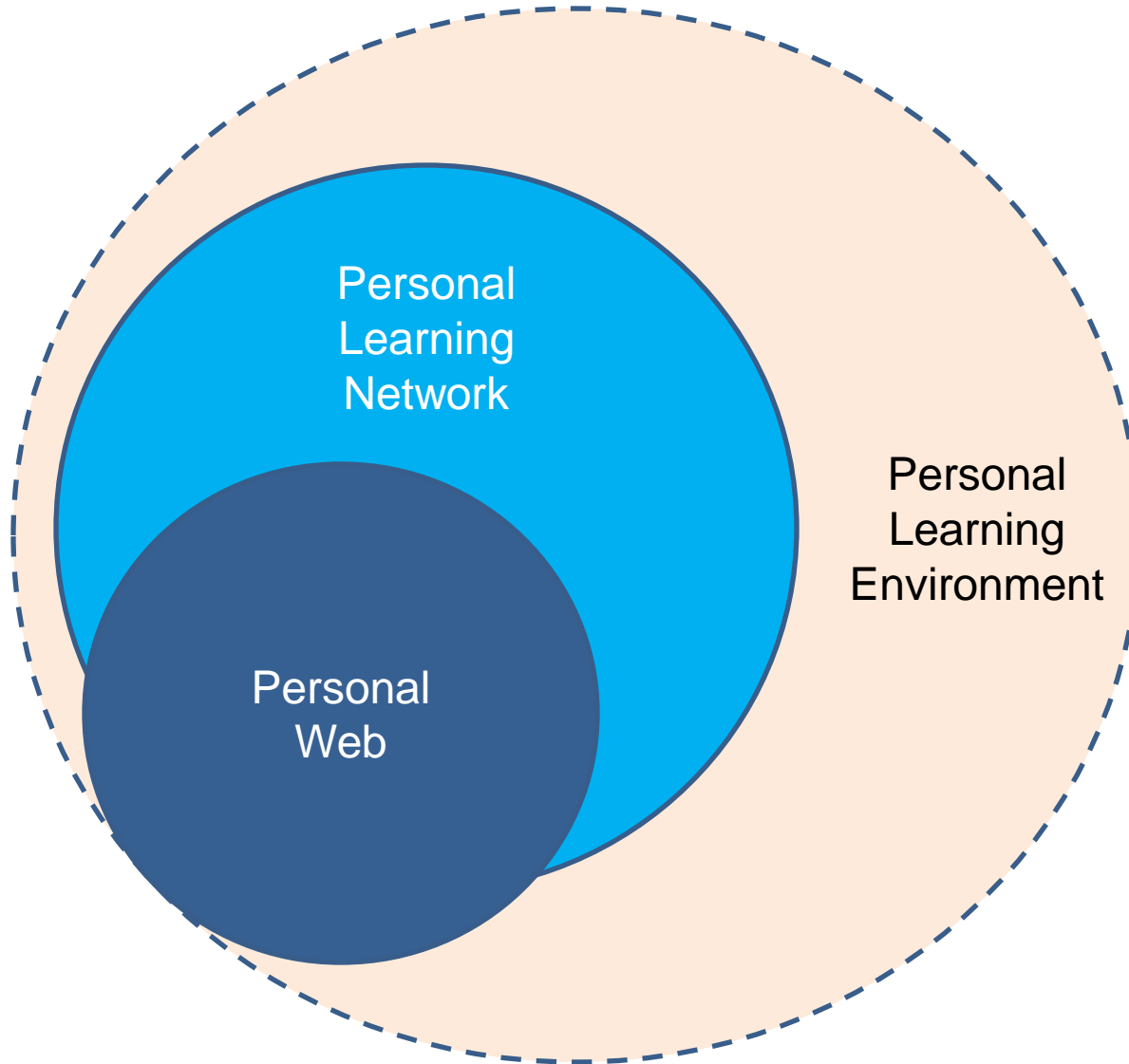


**... or making
connections?**

You are your own 'VLE'



PLEs, PLNs and PWs



“Wikipedia is different in that it doesn’t try to frame the creation of new entries with commissioned beginnings and fixed endpoints. It is open to anyone to initiate an entry on Wikipedia, and no entry is ever formally closed, since it is also open to anyone to keep editing and altering whatever is already there.”

– Andrew Lih, *The Wikipedia Revolution* (2009)

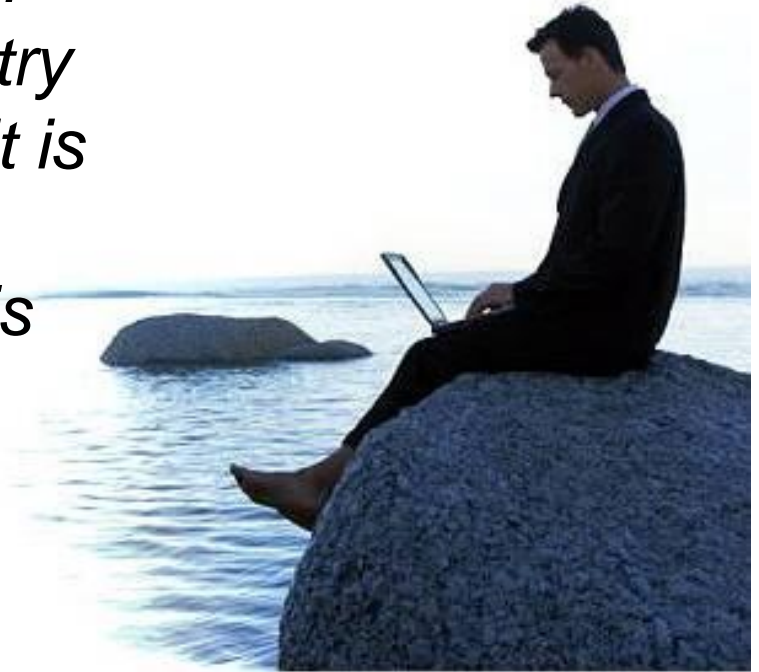
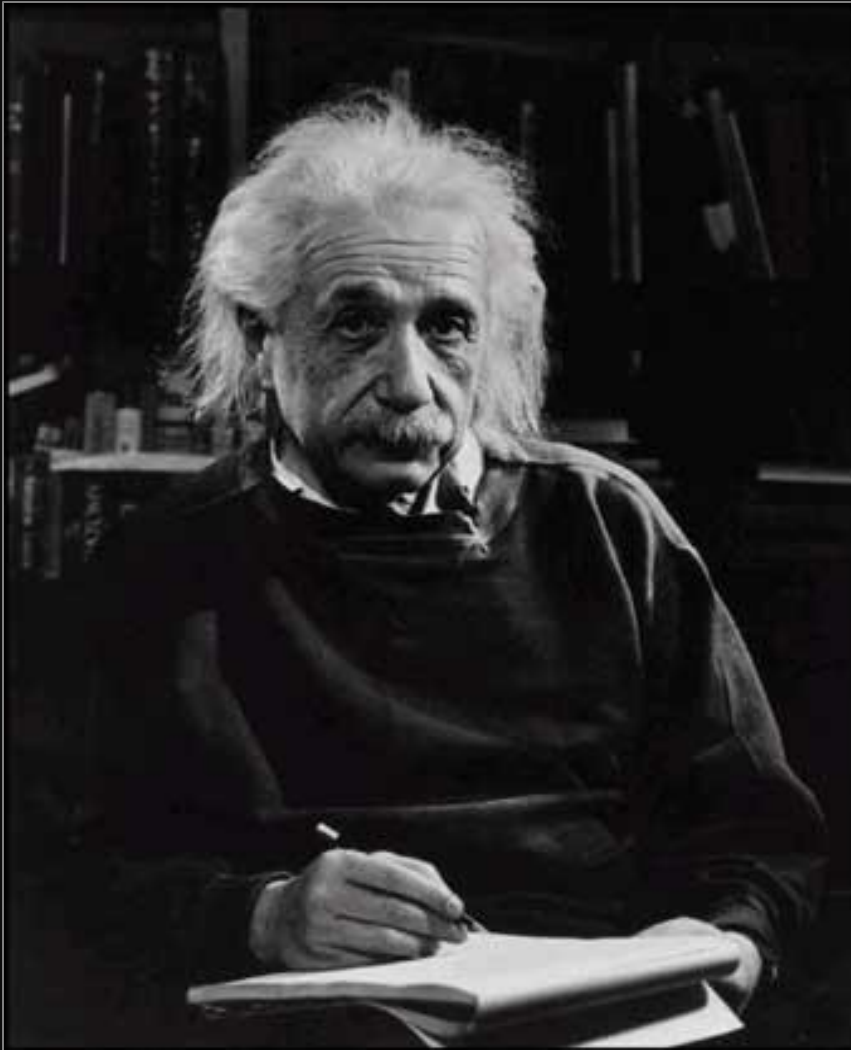


Photo source unknown



www.students.ou.edu

*Imagination
is more
important
than
knowledge*

~ Einstein

Thank you

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