Networking among educational technologists in Africa
RISE Annual Meeting 2013

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University of Cape Town
Educational Technologists in African Universities

• Explosion of eLearning projects in African Universities
• Rapidly growing profession in large continent
• Limited local community for specialists
• Need for formal, informal and semi-formal professional development opportunities
Topics

- Communities of practice
- e/merge online conference
- Scoping the network
- Moving into e/merge Africa
- What might be useful for RISE
Different Kinds of Community

1. Task Based

2. Practice Based

3. Knowledge Based

Theoretical Underpinning

- Educators as individuals
- Educators learning in community

“groups of people who share a concern, a set of problems, or a passion about a topic and who deepen their knowledge and expertise in this area by interacting on an ongoing basis.” Wenger, McDermott and Snyder 2002 p4
Importance of CoP for Educators

• support to “both existing and new staff as they move into an unknown educational future.” Viskovic 2003 (p9)

• “the means to bridge the gap between advanced staff development and authentic learning by teachers in the university classroom.” Ingram and Goody 2002 (p353)
Good Practices in Virtual CoP

Critical success factors include:

- The technology and its usability
- Communication
- Founders with prior knowledge of each other
- A sense of belonging
- A sense of purpose
- Netiquette, modelling and guidelines for good conduct
- Use of accessible language
- Time to build up a rapport, trust and the fostering of a sense of community

Gannon-Leary and Fontainha (2007)
Interaction at the Boundary

http://www.flickr.com/photos/snej/2282470339/
Starting with Online Conferences
Online conference

“a structured, time delineated, professional education event that is organised and attended on the Internet by a distributed population of presenters and participants who interact synchronously and/ or asynchronously by using online communication and collaboration tools.”

Anderson and Anderson 2010, p15.
e/merge - Purpose

“The conference is primarily designed to share good practice and knowledge about educational technology innovation within the further and higher education sectors in the region, as well as to strengthen communities of researchers and practitioners.”
e/merge - process

Phase 2
Systems and Strategies

Papers for this phase

Keynotes
Victor Mbarika
Yacine Atif

Discussion Forums
Phase 2 Forums
Open Space Forum
Cafe Forum

Wednesday, 11 July
3pm Connected Teacher Toolkit (recording)
4pm Keynote (recording) by Victor Mbarika

Thursday, 12 July
11am Paper by Jerome Dooga (recording)
1pm Paragogy Workshop
3pm Facilitator Practices Workshop (recording)

Friday, 13 July
2pm Keynote by Yacine Atif (recording)
3pm Connected Teacher Toolkit (recording)
Nature of engaged participant experience

- Interaction across time and space
- Scope for reflective engagement
- Access to the community
- Learning about online interaction
Overview

- Five Keynotes
- 32 Presentations
- Six online workshops

- 383 registered delegates
- 131 posted in the forums
- 202 participated in live meetings
- 268 in the Facebook group
- 66 visible in Facebook
We have e/merged!
## Our Top 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>50.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>14.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>Swaziland</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/9</td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/9</td>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Live Online Meetings
The Facebook Group

Tony Carr

Sometimes I feel like an old fashioned online discussion forum guy ;) Please share your farewell messages to the e/merge 2012 participants here or in the Farewells forum ... or even both
http://emerge2012.net/live/discussionforum/forum/cafe-forums/farwells

Farewells - Emerge2012
emerge2012.net

Kafui Mutinta Aheto Great reading and being part of the course.
34 minutes ago · Like
Our use of Twitter

Results for #emergeafrica

Tweets Top / All / People you follow

Laura Czerniewicz @Czernie
That was fun. I enjoyed the #emergeafrica keynote on changing scholarship's implications for educational researchers, great questions too!

Derek Moore @weblearning
Adobe Connect, my old friend, thanks for only bombing out towards the end of this afternoons #emergeafrica presentation

nancyrubin @nancyrubin
RT @weblearning: If it's not available online, then it does not exist. #emergeafrica

Derek Moore @weblearning
If it's not available online, then it does not exist. #emergeafrica

Nicola Pallitt @nicolapallitt
Listening to @Czernie @emergeAfrica speaking about open scholarship & what it means for African universities #emergeafrica
The e/merge party

Going (33)
- Tony Carr (Host)
- Gabriel Konayuma
- Vicki Trowler
- Kinsley Ngwa
- Derek Moore
- Stewart Marshall
- Gurmit Singh
- Wondwosen Mulugeta
- Alice Goodwin-Davey
- Cheryl Lee Brown

Maybe (3)
- Emma Kiselyova

e/merge party
Public event · By Tony Carr

Today
What time?

Online

Bring some music from your country or globally you'd like to share in an e/merge 2012 online conference party. Include a url or the embed code eg from a YouTube music vid and say a bit about why you chose it. Maximum of two suggestions per person.

Write post · Add photo/video · Ask question

Write something...

Travis Noakes
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEEnKe7G-fU
'Hi A Ma (Pata Pata)' in ZA house! Milk and Sugar's 2011 remix of Miriam Makeba's classic, set to dancing elephants, giraffes, flamingos and their illustrated friends. Put on full-screen, turn up your speakers and get your groove on :)

Milk & Sugar feat. Miriam Makeba - Hi a Ma (Pata Pata) [OFFICIAL VIDEO HD]
www.youtube.com
Il follow up del tormentone "Hey (Nah Neh Nah)" arriva finalmente su X-Energy. Il duo Milk & Sugar
What does it take?

Presenters
Reviewers
Passionate Participants
Design for Purpose
Web developer/s
Project Manager
Convenor
Online facilitators
Social Media Expert/s
Technical Support
e/merge africa
unleashing the power of networks
Scoping the Network

SUCCESS FACTORS

PROFESSIONAL ONLINE LEARNING/DOING

USEFULNESS
- Usefulness
- Increasing demand
- Providing projects
- Giving value
- MENTORING
- TRUST
- PEERS
- CORE CONTRIBUTORS
- SKILLS LEVELS

COMMUNITY
- Engagement
- Voice
- Support
- Flexibility
- EASE OF USE

LEADERSHIP
- Credibility
- Support
- Mission
- Awareness
- Leadership

CONTENT
- Open
- Clear
- Multiple ways of participating

THE RIGHT PEOPLE
- Strategy
- Purpose
- Vision

FACILITATION
- Multilingual diversity
- Support for new skills
- Fresh conversations

SCOREBOARD: TIME, TRAVEL, TRAVEL, TRAVEL

WHAT MIGHT INFORM OUR NETWORK?
- QUALIFICATIONS
- INTEREST
- NETWORK

START UP PROCES
- SIMPLIFIED
- CURRICULUM
- DOCUMENTATION

USEFUL, BAND WITH APPLICABLE TOOLS
- Simple
- User-friendly

OPENNESS
- Multi-Option
- Network

http://www.flickr.com/photos/tonycarr/5792675931/in/set-72157626874481794
Balance needed

structure and flexibility

http://www.flickr.com/photos/choconancy/5613817067/
Networks and Communities

• Networks AND communities
• Interweaving and intermorphing
• Will e/merge Africa be a network or community?

http://www.flickr.com/photos/kasei/4750370030/sizes/m/in/photostream/
http://www.flickr.com/photos/kubina/471164507/
Strategic Options for pilot eLearning
Network activities

- Start large or small?
- Start fast or slow?
- Formal or grassroots?
- Purpose/s?
- Resources?
- Capacity?
- Leadership?
Good Practices Report

Draft Report version 3

Good Practices for Online Professional Networks and Communities

Alice Barlow-Zambodla
South African Institute for Distance Education

Tony Carr
Centre for Educational Technology
University of Cape Town
Nnenna Nwakanma
My message at e/merge Africa Launch:

"We have come this far by sheer will, trudging a long and winding way;
We will go further than today, blazing a bright and upward trail;
Opening doors in education pulling down gates that kept us submerged
Raising resources offline and offline, for an Africa that will e/merge"
Our first seminar, eLearning Fellowships as an Online Learning Strategy, ends on Friday, 28 September at 5pm (GMT+2). The presentation (Narrated-40MB / Powerpoint-1MB) remains available to registered members of this site. The online discussion forum will stay open for closing messages until 5pm (GMT+2) on 30 September 2012 and will then be available as an archive.

Don’t forget to update your profile. You can access your personal information, notifications and account settings at the top right of any page.

The Open Learning Design Studio in the UK is convening a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) on “Learning Design for a 21st Century Curriculum”. The course will run from 10th January to 13th March 2013. Participation is free. If you have never participated in a MOOC then this is an excellent opportunity to start!

“This free, open and online course (MOOC) has been designed with further and higher education professionals in mind - lecturers, qualification teams, awarding bodies, learning technologists, library and student support staff and learning and teaching specialists - but may also be of interest to teachers (or teachers to be) in secondary schools or informal/work based
From seminar participants

• I especially like the idea of using the emerge Africa Group Facebook Page to create awareness and provide very timely and useful information well in advance.

• Knowledge, experience and networking sharing is real in this seminar, and should be sustained

• Who knew I would find great examples, provocative questions and elegant poetry!
Plans for 2013 - 2016

• Ongoing online network focused on use of educational technology in African universities
• Regular online seminars and workshops
• Online courses
• Periodic online conferences
• Exploring viability of face to face
Potential Applications for RISE

- The network of networks
- Focus on shared areas of learning within and across networks
- Research capacity development
- Emerging practices in Research and Science education
- Facilitating conversation across sectors in a landscape of practices
The Landscape of Practices

communities of practice “constitute a complex social landscape of shared practices, boundaries, peripheries, overlaps, connections and encounters” (Wenger 1998:118). At a pragmatic level each community exists within a landscape that includes all related practices.
A complexifying landscape of practice

New entrants and contenders

Boundary objects

boundary projects

boundary practices

Peripheral access

Open curriculum

Teaching

Research discipline 1

Regulatory body

NGO's

Google

Research discipline 2

Professional body

Profession I

Profession II

Social networks

Informal communities

Professional networks

Workplace A

Workplace B

Service recipient A

Service recipient B

Client communities

Bloggers

Twitterers

Wikipedia

Topical websites

Google

Slide by Etienne Wenger
Community Orientations

Digital Habitats, Wenger, White and Smith 2009

http://technologyforcommunities.com
Some useful resources
Thanks to our Funders

Ford Foundation

Working with Visionaries on the Frontlines of Social Change Worldwide

Carnegie Corporation of New York
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