

Reimagining libraries, learning & innovation for the 21st Century



The 21st century entrepreneurial learner seeking resources outside/inside of formal schooling

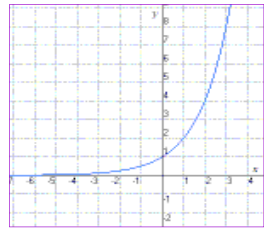
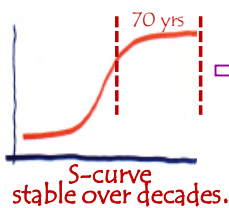
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our current context

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

20th C infrastructure



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In a world of increasingly rapid change, the half life of many stocks/skills 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)

canons/genres relatively fixed

genres fluid: institutional warrants less valuable

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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

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"Knowledge is no longer that which is contained in space, but that which passes through it, like a series of vectors, each having direction and duration yet without precise location or limit.




Carla Hesse:

In the future, it seems, there will be no fixed canons of texts and no fixed epistemological boundaries between disciplines, only paths of inquiry, modes of integration, and moments of encounter."

our vision of libraries is, itself,
in a state of flu!


Let us ponder the grand library



Bodleian Library at Oxford


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Revisiting the Bodleian Library




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Revisiting the Bodleian Library



But now with a new kind of magic


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Hunt Library at NCSU

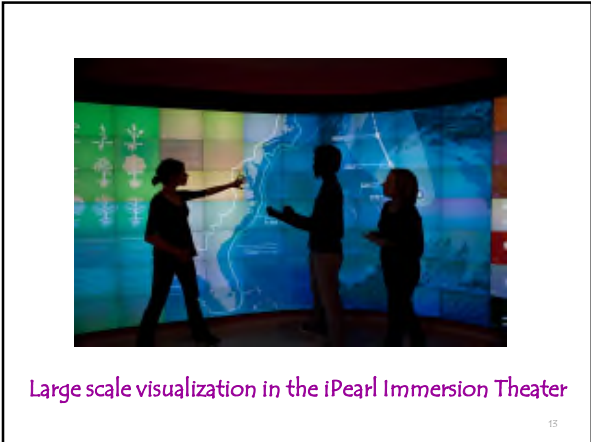
Where thinkers, dreamers and doers can come together to seek solutions to the grand challenges facing this world. ...offers spaces custom-built for collaboration, equipped with cutting-edge tools to make concepts concrete. We've invested in immersive, large-scale visualization technology to create canvases that measure up to your ambition.

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Students at work in the iPearl Immersion Theater

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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

Spaces for cultivating the imagination and dispositions of the entrepreneurial learner

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21st Century Urban library ?

Core Values

Equity: educational opportunity should be available to all

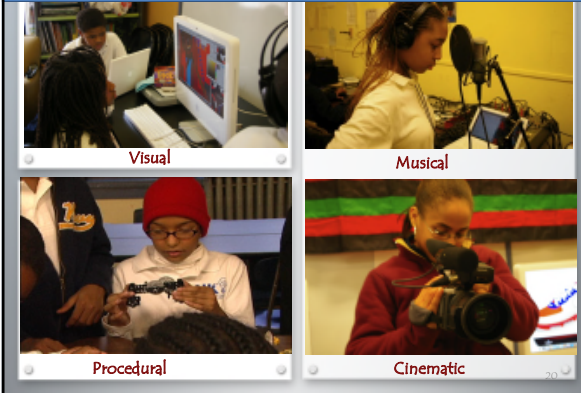
Full participation: everyone should be engaged and contribute

Social connection: learning is built around relationships



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



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

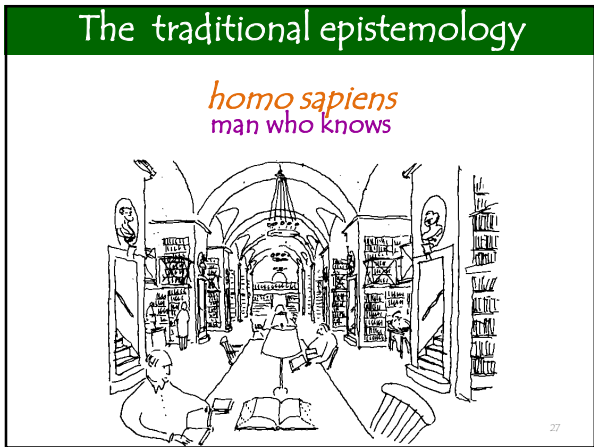


Today's kids – creating in a multi-modal world




A surprise finding

Although this room is outfitted for mostly digital activities with many digital tools & resources (but where the walls are mostly lined with physical books) they have more check outs (700%) of real physical books than ever.




Extending the blended epistemology

Homo Sapiens man who knows  *Homo Faber* man who makes


↓

content/things & **CONTEXT**
Tools as instrumental

 This could mean many things...


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Developing new reading practices for reading context is now more important than ever in our 21st world of fluid genres??

 Hmm, maybe today's kids can help us as we help them.


mentorship meets reverse mentorship: a winning move

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 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...

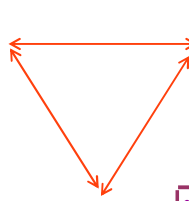
reading context is king
the millennials believe there are no authoritative sources!



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Extending the blend still further

homo sapiens man who knows *homo faber* man who makes



homo ludens man who plays

probing & pushing boundaries
invention within a space of rules

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Homo Ludens a highly nuanced concept of play

As in permission to fail, fail and fail again, then get it right. think of extreme sports or tinkering.

As in play of imagination – poetry.

As in an epiphany – suddenly falling in place as in solving a riddle.

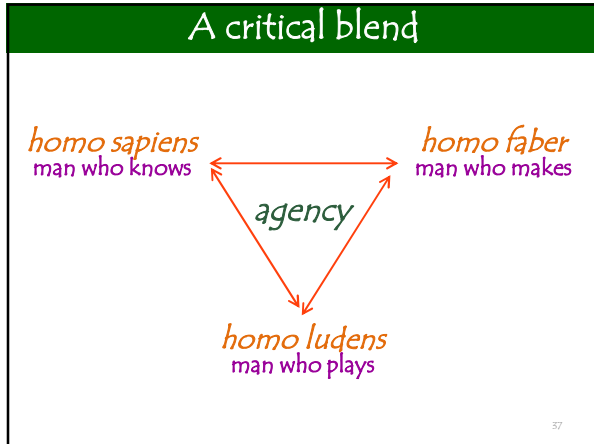
Play is the progenitor of culture & innovation.

Johan Huizinga

Play is a space of invention and permission

Based in reality but different from reality.
Play creates a space to try out new things.

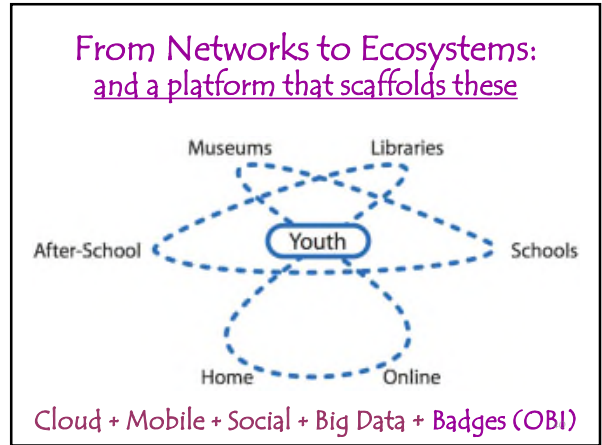
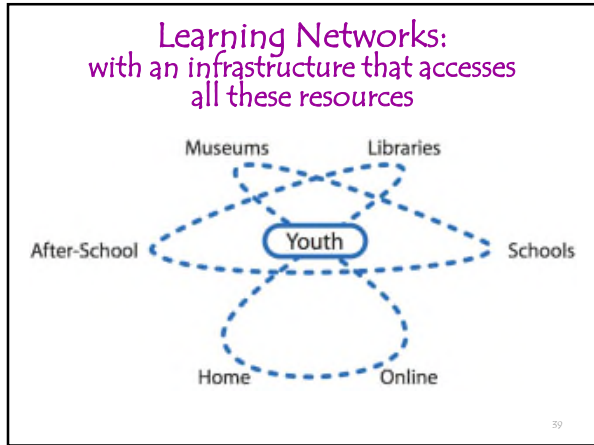
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A pathway forward

Blending epistemologies
for combining
learning in school with
learning in the wild

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From Networks to Ecosystems:
and a platform that scaffolds these



Where curation and mentorship take root.

And perhaps there is an ever bigger role for urban libraries of the 21st Century

Creating a social space or a CREATION SPACE for the play of imagination-- the world of "what if" and "why not"

Harry Potter & world building

Fanfiction.com

65,000 stories & podcasts



forums wikis videos podcasts contests

Fanfiction.net

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

But they are doing more than creating a set of stories. They are building worlds; exploring the what ifs, building a physics and a sociology – a first stage of world-building.

Imagination

Thriving in a world of "what if...." (crafting a context in which the imagined 'wand' now seems familiar.. e.g. world building)



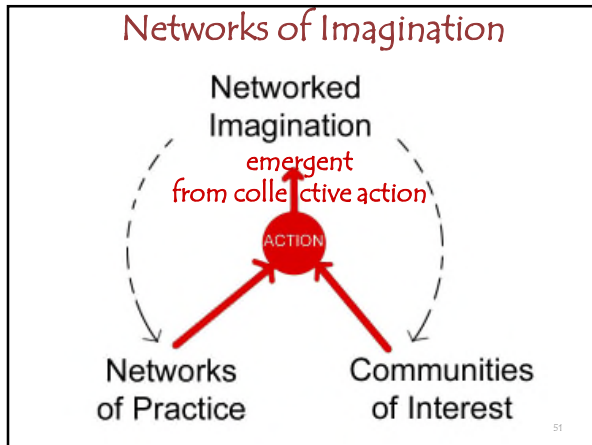
Making the strange familiar

Wait, there is more to this story

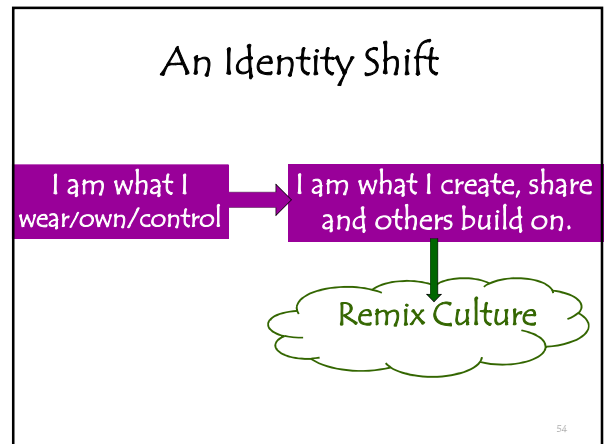
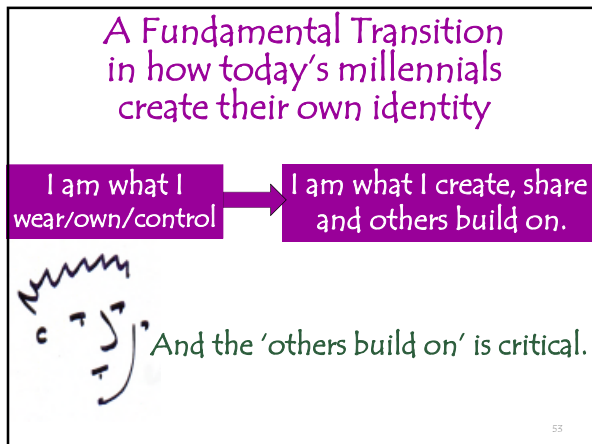
How might this play out for expanding The Civic Imagination?

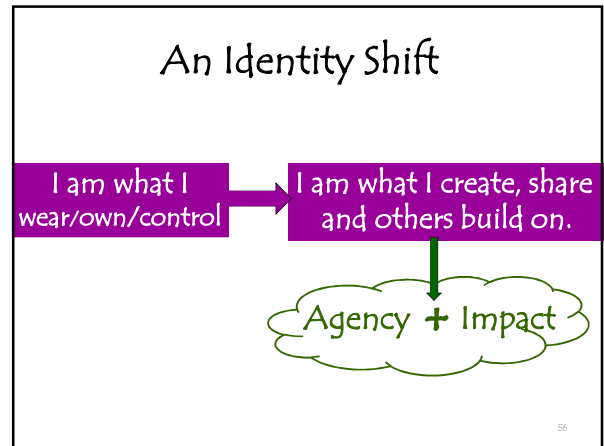
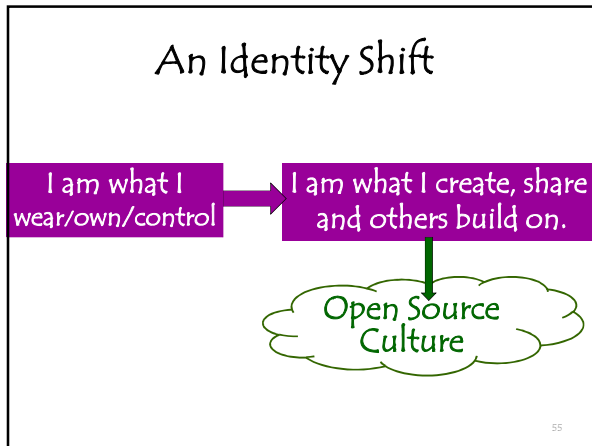


A vast and emerging topic – See: <http://civicpaths.uscannenberg.org/blog/>



What lies behind all this?





- ### Three priorities for a 21st century public library service
- 1 Place the library as the hub of a community
 - 2 Make the most of digital technology and creative media
 - 3 Mentoring, connecting, guiding & curating
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Library as
 a new kind of design studio
 where content and context come to play.
 Where folks of any age can
 imagine, create, learn & innovate
 and a social space scaffolding all the above

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Thank You

Sketches by Susan Haviland

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