Student Technology Experiences in Formal and Informal Learning

Kwok-Wing Lai, wing.lai@otago.ac.nz, University of Otago, New Zealand
Ferial Khaddage, fayekhaddage@gmail.com, Deakin University, Australia
Gerald Knezek, gknezek@gmail.com, University of North Texas, USA

Abstract
Many youth around the world are confronted with a dichotomous set of realities when it comes to their learning. In formal school settings, they are often expected to comply with performance objectives set by standardized tests, designed to measure objectives contextualized by local, state, or national agencies. Out of school, their learning is often governed by interest-based informal learning, which is highly flexible and often social. In this contribution we discuss the importance of recognizing students' technology-enhanced informal learning experiences and developing pedagogies to connect students' formal and informal learning experiences, in order to meet the demands of the knowledge society. The purpose is to discuss how learning in different contexts can be connected by using technologies, in other words, how everyday learning acquired from technological practices (informal) can be transferred or mapped onto educational practices that are formal, and vice versa, based on ideas generated from the EDUSummIT 2011 discussion as well as from the literature. The Mobile Blended Collaborative Learning (MBCL) model is proposed as a framework to bridge the gap between formal and informal learning and blend them together to form a portable, flexible, collaborative and creative learning environment.

Keywords
mobile learning, formal and informal learning, re-designing education

Biographies
Dr. Kwok-Wing Lai is a Professor and the founding Director of the Centre for Distance Education and Learning Technologies. He has published widely in ICT in education and distance education and his current research focuses on knowledge building communities.

Dr. Ferial Khaddage is a lecturer of IT. Deakin University. Her primary research interest is mobile technologies and applications in education and has published widely in the area. She is an active member of the Association for the Advancement of Computers in Education (AACE).

Prof. Gerald Knezek is Regents Professor and Director of the Institute for the Integration of Technology in Education at UNT. He is currently Lead Principal Investigator for the US National Science Foundation Innovative Technologies Project (MSOSW).

Copyright
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License. To view a copy of this licence, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/