

Initi@tives 2003: Normes et standards pour l'apprentissage en ligne

Trans-Cultural Issues in e-Learning

Versailles

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Assumptions

- Knowledge is shared in both:
Closed Knowledge Networks
Open Knowledge Networks
- Open Knowledge Systems depend upon
Interoperability
- Trans-cultural issues are not all *problems*
Challenges to be overcome
Perspectives to be considered

Culture & the Internet

- Manuel Castells identifies 4 'cultures':
 - Techno-meritocratic
 - Hackers
 - Virtual Communitarian
 - Entrepreneurial
- Internet thrives on
 - ideology of freedom & sharing
 - openness
 - innovation

Meanings of “Trans-Cultural”

- Crossing boundaries within a university
 - Information Technology Services
 - Library Services
 - Teaching Staff
 - Administrative Staff
- Crossing other boundaries
 - Linguistic
 - Religious
 - Ethnic
 - “Digital Divide”
 - Developed World – Developing World

Questions about e-learning

- What is generic about learning?
 - Content, Context, Community?
- What might be unique to e-learning?
- Might there be specific trans-cultural issues?
- Is standardization appropriate for all trans-cultural considerations?
- Will internationalization of school curricula assist?
- How to lower the costs of content?

SC36 Issues

- Achieving international membership
 - UNESCO agenda - education 4 all
 - Costs of participation
 - Standards must not lead unwittingly to dis-enfranchisement
- New ad hoc committee
 - Culture, Language, and Function
- Capturing meaningful input from
 - Academics
 - Training Professionals

Emerging Frameworks

- **UNESCO**
 - Achieving better knowledge about learning
 - Facilitating partnerships
- **“Public Knowledge” projects**
 - Internet Commons
 - Scholarly publishing undergoing transformation
- **World Bank – Virtual Colombo Plan**
- **Commonwealth of Learning**
 - Cultural Identity a key consideration

Pedagogical Perspectives

- **Instructivist - Constructivist**
- **Individual - Collaborative**
- **Accessibility**
- **Instruction - Facilitation**
- **Classroom - Workplace**
- **Knowledge Management**

Technical Perspectives

- **W3C Mission**
 - **Universal Access** – To make the Web accessible to all by promoting technologies that take into account the vast differences in culture, languages, education, ability, material resources, access devices, and physical limitations of users on all continents.
- **W3C technologies on track**
- **IMS Global Learning Consortium**
 - Pre-standardization
 - Rough Consensus
 - Specifications that inform interoperability agenda
 - BUT – entry barrier is costly
- **Usability**

Interoperability

Political	Agreeing to common goals & ground rules for achieving mutual benefit
Jurisdictional	Mapping legal, regional interests
Semantic	Achieving common understanding, common meanings (eg Dublin Core)
Syntactic	Sharing grammars, templates, ...
Cultural	Communities of Practice engaged in Knowledge Sharing
Technical	Systems exchanging data & services