The implications of Web 2.0 for teaching and learning in a knowledge-based society

Overview

1. Introduction
2. E-Learning 1.0 and Web 1.0
3. Defining Web 2.0
4. Educational implications
5. A framework for choosing Web 2.0 tools
6. Conclusions

Online learning 1995-2006

Main driver: Internet + learning platforms:
- WebCT, Blackboard, Moodle, Virtual Campus
- integration of teaching and administration
- proprietal vs open-source
- institution/teacher-focused

What is Web 2.0?

Definition (Wikipedia):
second generation of Internet-based services—such as social networking sites, wikis, communication tools, and folksonomies—that emphasize online collaboration and sharing among users.
New technologies: 2005 -

user-created content: blogs, YouTube
social networking: MySpace
mobile learning: phones, MP3s
virtual worlds: Second Life
emerging publication: wikis, e-Portfolios
multi-player games: Lord of the Rings
simulations: MyPhysicsLab.com
synchronous: Skype, Elluminate
What is Web 2.0?

Educational implications:
- learners have powerful tools
- learners create/add/adapt content
- personal learning environments
- power shift from teachers to learners
- ‘open’ access, content, services

What is Web 2.0?

Educational implications:
- social networks; peer-to-peer (P2P)
- institutional shift to service, speed, and market response
- issues of quality, IP and accreditation
- others?

How to mobilise Web 2.0 in online teaching

Within programmes:
- group work
- projects and cases
- outside experts and content
- field work
- language teaching
- multimedia assignments/e-portfolios
- ………
Dangers of Web 2.0

‘Instead of a dictatorship of experts, we’ll have a dictatorship of idiots’
Andrew Keen, ‘The Cult of the Amateur’

Dangers of learner-centred Web-based learning

• ‘democratization’ of learning: threat to expertise/authority/reliability?
• undermining of scientific thinking?
• dependent learners: need for structure/guidance (teachable)
• didactic teaching sometimes best
• trustworthiness and security

The educational benefits of Web 2.0

• lot of hype: much of Web 2.0 is social not educational
• BUT there is educational potential: meets many lifelong learning needs
• change in philosophy as well as technology
• will lead to power shift to learners
• needs more experimentation/evaluation

Further information

Web2.0 Based e-Learning: Applying Social Informatics for Tertiary Teaching Hershey PA: IGI Global
Contact and more information

tony.bates@ubc.ca
http://tonybates.ca