



**e- and m-research: carrying out
research online**

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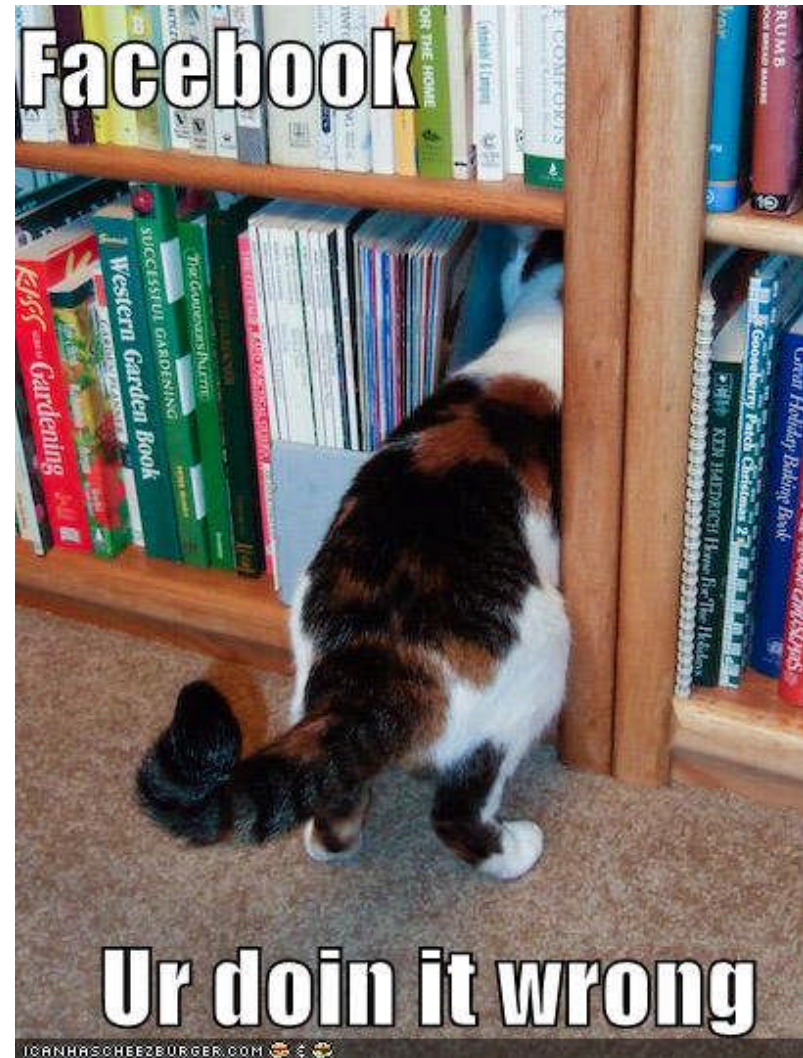
Hanging sculpture or
“mobile” by Alexander
Calder: *L'empennage*
(1953)

A (pre)history of e/m-health/learning

- 1860: heart signals sent by telegraph
- 1876: Alexander Graham Bell patents the telephone
- 1901: Linguaphone release language lessons on wax cylinders
- 1941-8: Computer invented
- 1960: Univ. of Illinois linked computer terminals in classroom
- 1969: Internet (as ARPANET) begins
- 1975: First online group (an e-mail list) on ARPANET
- Late 1970s: First online support groups

A(n) history of e/m-health/learning

- 1987: First(?) research paper on online support groups (Gustafson *et al.*, *Ann Rev Public Health* **8**: 387-415)
- 1989: Whyte (*J College Student Develop*, **30**: 86-89) writes about increasing role of computers in higher education
- 1991: Apple Classrooms of Tomorrow 'Wireless Coyote'; PalmOS Mobile Learning; *etc.*
- 1992: First SMS sent
- 1996: WebCT launched
- 2001: Wikipedia launched
- 2002: Moodle launched
- 2004: Facebook launched
- 2006: Twitter launched



Methods (just some examples)

'Old'

- Questionnaires
- Interviews
- Focus groups
- Observations
- Trials (before/after, randomised...)

'New'

- Online questionnaires (SurveyMonkey, Opinio...)
- Online interviews (epistolary, synchronous text, Skype *etc.*) and focus groups (e.g. within Moodle)
- Log data

Theories(/assumptions)

(just some examples)

‘Old’

- ...

‘New’

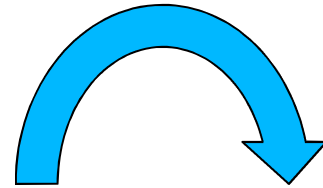
- Online disinhibition
- Digital natives
- Techno-utopianism
- Actor-network theory
- Recursivity

Turn your mobile *on* !



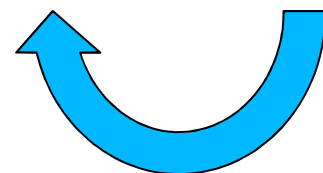
- Digital natives vs. digital immigrants
- A useful concept in medical education?

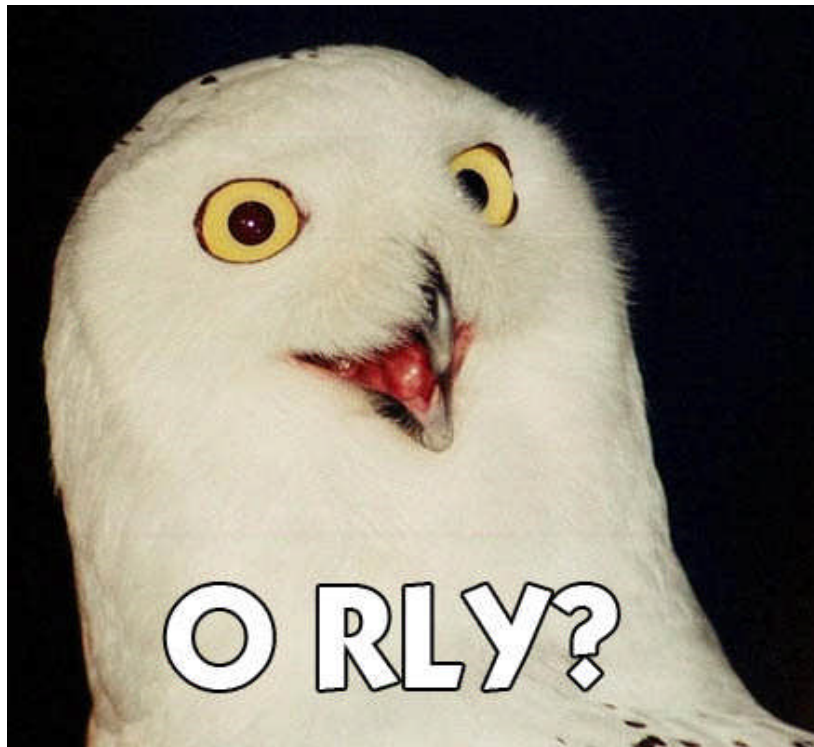
A happy confluence?



- Self-directed learning
- In a collaborative & participative environment
- Web 2.0
- User-generated content – ‘produsage’
- Wikipedia, Facebook...

Digital natives?





- Digital natives – oh, really?
- Mismatches in quality perspectives
- ‘Producers’ in a minority

The meta-narrative approach...

Greenhalgh T, Potts HWW, Wong G, Bark P, Swinglehurst D (2009). Tensions and paradoxes in electronic patient record research: A systematic literature review using the meta-narrative method. *Milbank Quarterly*, **87**(4), 729-88.

Creating and sharing material

- Facilitators...?
- Barriers...?

Encouraging creating and sharing material

- Enjoyable
- Familiarity with material
- Part of a community
- Structure
- Meaning
- Feedback
- Culture of informal discussion
- Familiarity with each other in person
- Anxiety
- Sense of worth of contribution
- Intimidated by peers
- Lack of response/others' contributions
- Having to be the first
- Protective/competitive
- Other pressures/focus on assessment
- Social networking fatigue

Encouraging creating and sharing material

- Asynchronous vs. synchronous
- Permanence
- Group size
- Modality
- Other digital channels
- Right technology
- Social comparison

Potts HWW (2011).
“Student experiences
of creating and sharing
material in online
learning.” *Medical
Teacher*, **33**(11), E607-
14.

Potts (2011) methods

- Epistolary e-mail interviews (with distance learners)
- In person focus group (with face-to-face learners)
- Personal research log
- Transcripts of Skype tutorials

Farič & Potts (2013) methods

- Analysis of editors' userpages
- Interviews: face-to-face, by Skype, by e-mail

Big data vs. feral data



Also see:

http://www.uhmlg.ac.uk/2012_springforum.html

Bradley & Holley (2010):
www.ESCalate.ac.uk/8140

Thank you

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