Web 2.0 and Implications on Authorship, Culture, Community and Education

Abstract: Web 2.0 is shifting and challenging authorship, culture, community, media and business. Educators need to understand this shift and how the new Internet can influence education, learning, potential benefits and perils of issues that may emerge. This presentation will show examples of Web 2.0. A discussion will follow on how the potential of these tools, specifically in the context of authorship, culture, and community can be utilized in teacher education.

Web 2.0, a paradigm shift, is influencing culture, individual authorship, community relations, media and business. The term, Web 2.0, also called Read/Write Web, was coined by O’Reilly Media. It is described as “a set of principles and practices that tie together a veritable solar system of sites” (O’Reilly, 2005, ¶ 7). “The Web is now a participatory, interactive place where we create information collaboratively and share the results.” (Solomon & Schrum 2007, p. 8). The talk about Web 2.0 reflects “changes that cut across culture, commerce, technology and social organization” and “share the insight that a networked culture is enabling a new form of bottom-up power, as diverse groups of dispersed people pool their expertise and confront problems that are much more complex than they could handle individually” (Jenkins, 2007, ¶ 1-4).

According to many, the Web 2.0 implies a democratic and accessible tool that shifts authorship and power. However, Keen (2007) argues that the Web 2.0 is creating a culture of a cult of amateurs and jeopardizing authorship, culture and mainstream media. In the influx and plethora of the technological growth on the Internet, educators need to understand how the new Internet can influence education, learning, and potential benefits and perils of the implications of the new Internet. “The shift to Web 2.0 tools can have a profound effect on schools and learning, causing a transformation in thinking.” (Solomon & Schrum, 2007, p. 21). O’Hear (2006) states that e-learning 2.0, coined by Stephen Downes, takes “small pieces, loosely joined approach that
combines the use of discrete but complimentary tools and Web services – such as blogs, wikis, and other social software – to support the creation of ad-hoc learning communities.” (¶ 3). This presentation will explore and demonstrate educational uses of Web 2.0. The presenters will share examples of Web 2.0 tools such as blogs, Flicker, online video services (i.e. YouTube and TeacherTube), social bookmarking services (i.e. del.icio.us), and wikis. Questions discussed will include how to utilize Web 2.0 in and outside the classroom for student engagement and learning, potential perils teachers and parents need to know, and research needs and questions in the educational arena. A discussion will follow on how the potential of Web 2.0 tools, specifically in the context of authorship, culture, and community can be utilized in teacher education.

References


