

Exploring the frontier of informal open learning

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EXPLORING THE FRONTIER OF INFORMAL OPEN LEARNING (IOL)

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Objectives

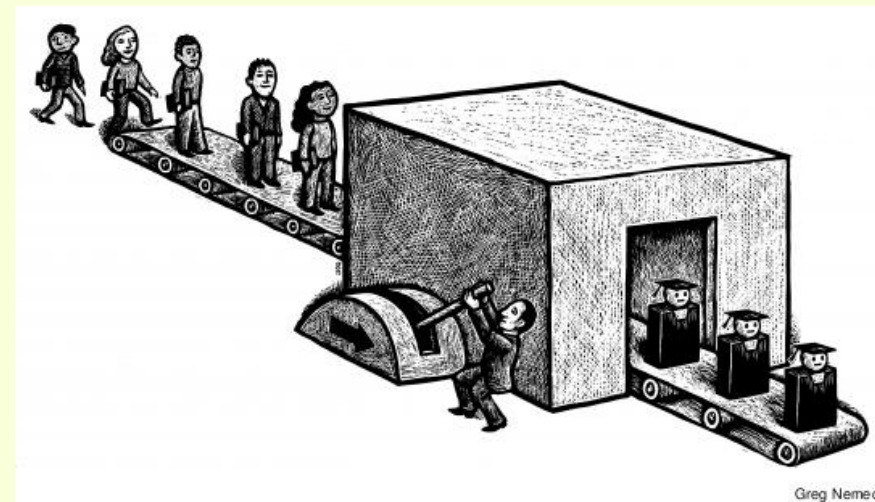
- To serve as a point of discussion about the next frontier of learning and education
- To offer a suggestion for an alternative learning approach



The image was retrieved from
<http://www.innovationmanagement.se/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/innovation-capacity-learning-education.jpg>

Traditional Education System

- Structured curriculum
- Standardised examinations
- Emphasise on academic achievement (“elitist” model)
- Produced in “batches”



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<http://www.exposingtruth.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/producinggraduates.png>

Critics of Education System

Ken Robinson (Author, educationist):

- The system suppress diversity and creativity.
- Learning should be personalised, and not standardised.

Joichi Ito (Director, MIT Media Lab):

- Education is what people do to you and learning is what you do to yourself.
- People are more motivated to learn independently



The image was retrieved from
<http://datafirstintelligence.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/TED-logo.png>

Open Distance Learning (ODL)

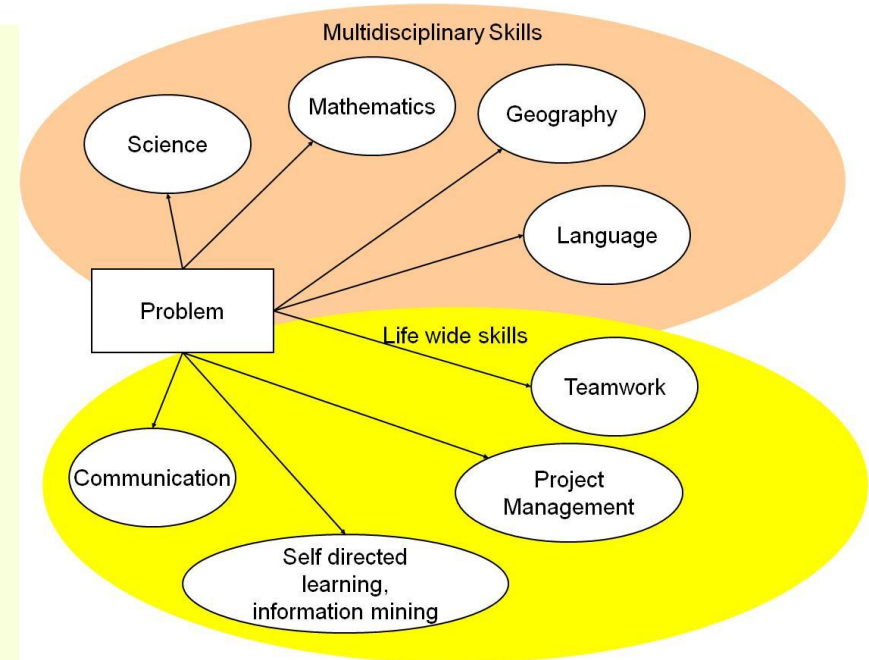
- A breath of fresh air ..
- Break away from the constraints of physical classrooms
- Conduct class to large student population
- Reduced the dependency of students on teachers
- Retained characteristics:
 - Curriculum structure
 - Standardised examination

The image was retrieved from http://distance-educator.com/wp-content/uploads/MortarBoardComputers_01.jpeg



Alternative from the classroom: Problem Based Learning (PBL)

- Focus is shifted from the learning content to the problem to be solved
- Learners takes control of their own learning
- PBL approach helps to break away from rigid curriculum structures



Tan, O.S. (2003). Problem-based Learning Innovation

Alternative from the Community: Maker Movement

- Extended from the extension of the Do-It-Yourself (DIY) culture
- Constructivism - emphasises on learning-through-doing
- Technology applications: product design, fabrication, calligraphy, movie making and software programming

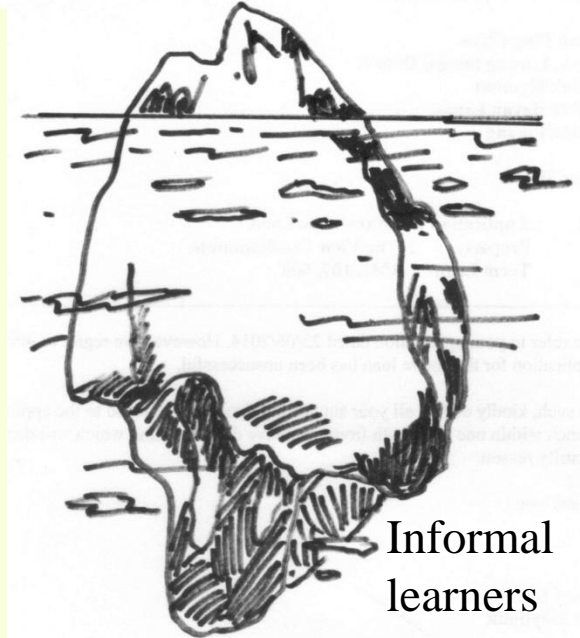


The image was retrieved from
<http://www.enterrasolutions.com/media/The-Maker-Movement.png>

Why Informer Learners?

- Moore (1973): more informal learners than formally registered students
- “Invisible” learners who have left formal education but continue to learn for career or leisure
- Self-directed in determining what and how they learn.

Formal learners



Informal Open Learning (IOL)

- No fixed syllabus
- No examination
- No certificate
- Lifelong
- Focus on value



The image was retrieved from
<http://www.growthengineering.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Many-people-chatting-about-everything-learning.jpg>

Knowledge Management Approach

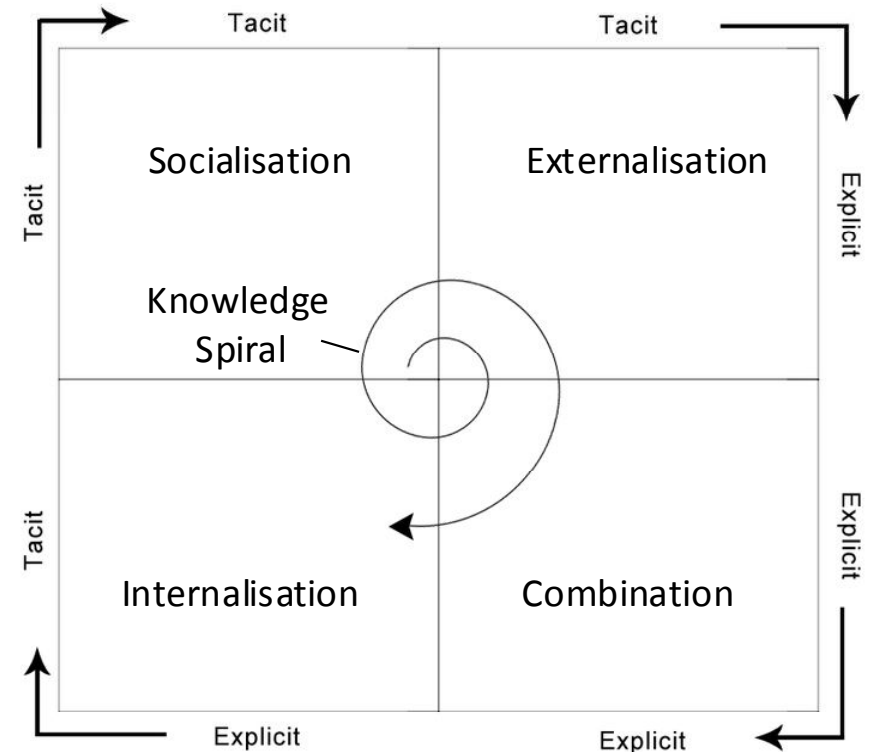
- Managing informal learning is difficult - it does not have fixed curriculum.
- There is a fixed pattern in the learning process
- Learning process involves flow of knowledge



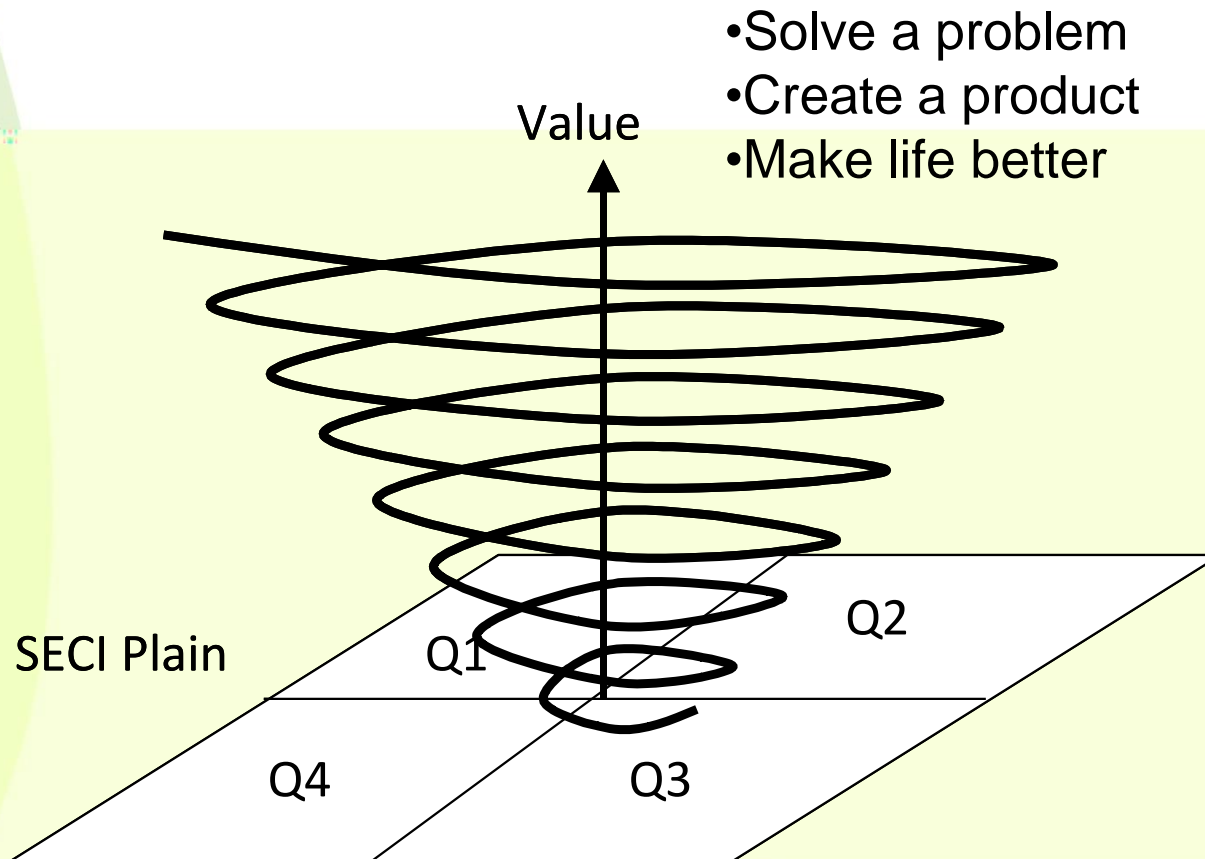
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Knowledge Management Approach

- Nonaka and Takeuchi (1999), SECI model
- The conversions of “tacit” and “explicit” knowledge across four quadrants
- Tacit knowledge - in the brains
- Explicit knowledge - codified and recorded



Value Creation

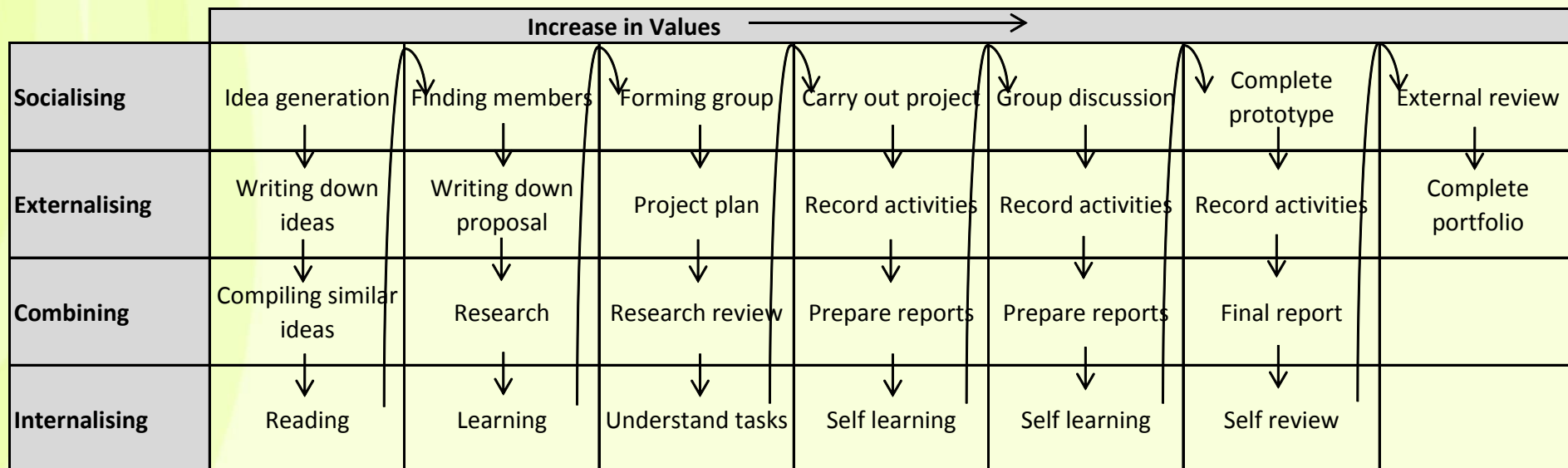


Environment for IOL

- **Socialising:** Space for meeting and discussion
- **Externalising:** Platform for sharing the recorded activities
- **Combining:** Facilities for previous work references and publications
- **Internalising:** Online learning contents searchable by functional topics

Possible IOL Framework

- Create an environment that encourages self directed learning



Alternative to Exam & Certificate: Show your skills online

- The results of learning is reflected directly from the values of work (Flores, 2014)
- E-portfolio can serve a few purposes,
 - to validate the work
 - to advertise the capabilities of learners
 - to be used as record knowledge so that others can learn from the experience



The image was retrieved from
<http://www.webaxis.info/assets/image/Portfolio.png>

Target Shift in Learning

- Formal education:
 - Standardised
 - Just-in-case
 - Pass examination
 - Qualification and assessment
- Informal learning:
 - Diversified
 - Just-in-time
 - Create value
 - Skill and capability



The image was retrieved from
<http://wsdwheel.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/just-in-time-.png>

Bridge the Academia-Industry Gap

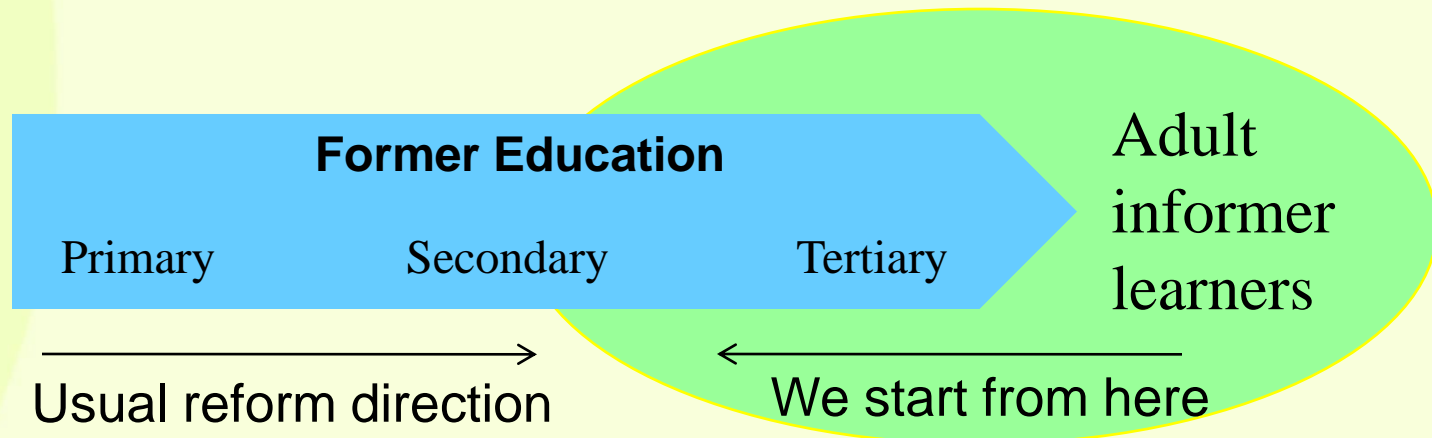
- Academic research are far ahead in time to be relevant to the industry
- Researchers who seek publication avoid “industrial relevant” projects
- The projects for informal learning should fill the gap in terms of industrial relevancy
- Project value should directly meet industry needs



The image was retrieved from
<http://m.c.lnkd.licdn.com/mpr/mpr/p/3/005/074/0f3/2ee21f7.jpg>

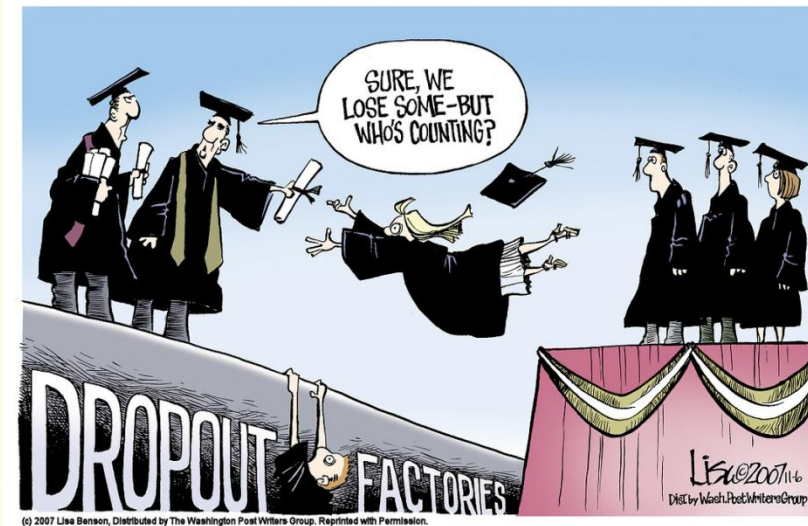
Education Reform

- Almost all countries in the world are looking for education reform
- Usually education reforms started from lower education
- With informal learning, reform can also start from another end - the pool of experienced learners



Benefits for School Dropouts

- More drop out of schools due to the increase in education costs or lack of interests
- Most of school dropouts have little chance to succeed (Carlozo, 2012)
- IOL can play the role in guiding dropouts to work on their interests and redevelop skills



The image was retrieved from
http://preventhighschooldropouts.weebly.com/uploads/1/9/7/8/19787253/1771728_orig.jpg

Benefits for Sharing Economy and Aging Society

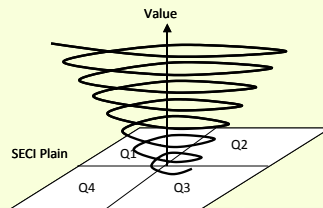
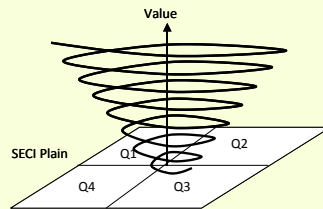
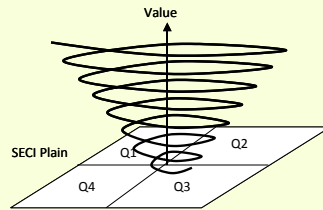
- Informal learners present themselves as service providers (as employee or self-employed) through the skills demonstrated
- Retired personnel can be financially independent and continue contributing their skills or re-skill through sharing economy (Burns, 2013)



The image was retrieved from
<http://cdn.playbuzz.com/cdn/8c3d14b2-7e10-4df0-beae-361ab5c0e768/30ed3907-f061-45ea-8249-732c56696555.jpg>

In the Nutshell

Informal Learning Value creation



Sharing



→ Employment

→ Self employ

Flexible • Affordable • Accessible

Possible Future Directions

- Improve usage of Self Directed and Problem Based Learning in the current system
- Introduce IOL in corporate training
- IOL in independent projects or Makers' projects



The image was retrieved from
<http://top-10-list.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/following-the-right-path.jpg>

Conclusion

- The quest for academic excellence must continue in traditional education.
- IOL can bridge between the industry and academic needs
- IOL offers an alternative path for lifelong learners to take control of their learning

