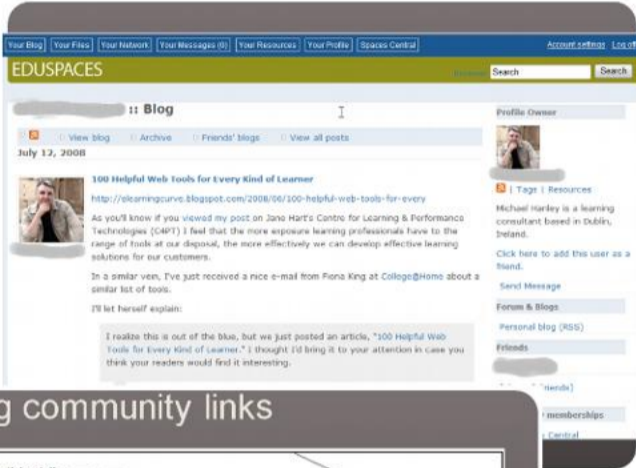
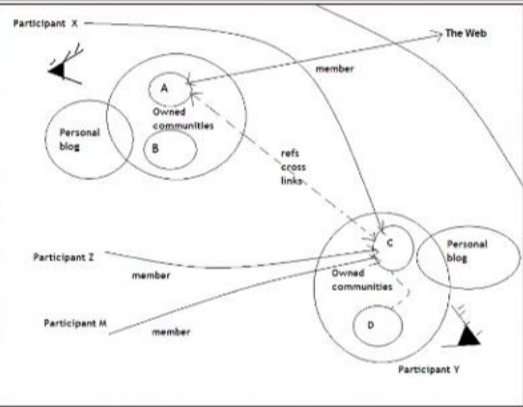


Comparison of Elgg and Knowledge Forum Communities.



Elgg community links



Digesting or Grazing - Developing an Online Research Community

Background to KF start

- 2001 Online community of practice.
- Idea-centred curriculum vs. problem-based learning.
- Knowledge Building Community model – Bereiter
- Knowledge Forum Software.
 - Group 'views'
 - Postings within views
 - Extra tools for research-style discussions

Elgg Networking Software

- Initially used for Blogging with MSc eLearning students. (2005)
- New undergraduate unit (research methods)
 - Graduated activities/ assessment artefact
- Hoped to cover stages 1-3 of Connectivism model
 - (Siemens 2007)
- Contents of posts.
- Focus groups.

Knowledge Building in KF

- 20 small groups post-graduates (2001-07).
- What is knowledge building?
 - 12 determinants of knowledge building.
- Groups demonstrated 9 very well.
- But did not demonstrate the other 3
 - Those needing links between groups.
- BUT deep channelling of focus to get good KB results.

Knowledge Building in Elgg

- Same ground as KF
- AND missing 3 determinants of KB
 - Symmetric Knowledge Advancement
 - Knowledge Building Discourse
 - Pervasive Knowledge Building
- Elgg work appeared to be more fluid and unfocussed
- Was actually very successful KB

Conclusions for Lecturers.

- Can no longer ignore participation culture.
- Be prepared to delegate control to "learning" networking software.
- Need an extended e-learning skills set.
- Students also need to learn skills.
 - Importance of personal blogging.

Lessons for Lecturers

"If you had an opinion about something, you could read someone else's posting and it was interesting to see another point of view, and see how they had come to that position... the premise of their argument - if they are putting forward an argument - compared to your own, and it made me think more deeply about the issue in hand."

Knowledge Building