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Carpe Diem: Relevant Action Brings Good Fortune and Deep Learning

Abstract

This paper represents a study on new ways of learning developed using new ways of learning. New online technologies were used to investigate, understand and present three learning ideologies that were new to the author. This content is viewable in its online form in the modality of a Web Padlet here:

https://padlet.com/david_kolmer/e885fnw9kb29

Differences

These three articles vary greatly in regards to the value placed on the natural to synthetic spectrum. The first article is focused on defining the natural world and does so by stating that the natural world consists of a complete absence of man-

made objects. It argues that there is an inherent value of simply being in the natural world. The second article is the complete opposite of the first in this regard. It focuses on how we can reinvent our perspective on how we use technology to find new deeper ways of learning. The third article is somewhere in the middle. It focuses on the learning itself. It is not concerned with being in the natural or synthetic environment but rather how taking real-world actions in any environment promotes deep learning.

Another difference between these articles is when these methods appeared throughout time. The idea of entering the wilderness is certainly a ritual that dates back to prehistory. In, fact before that there only was the natural world for us to experience. Later, after our technology was being developed, the process of learning to use that technology in apprenticeships or hand on application became necessary. This is the brand of learning that the third article speaks to. Finally, the second article brings up the idea of using mobile devices in creative ways to promote deep learning.

Similarities

All three articles are very similar in a number of ways. They all argue for an enhanced method of deep learning. There is an emphasis on kinesthetic function or a certain level of activity related to the learning or personal improvement.

All three articles argue for a sense of naturalism in their own way. The first article is obviously arguing the inherent value of the natural world by placing such importance on defining the word "natural". The second article is about a synthetic object, in this case, mobile or "smart" devices. However, the author is arguing that there is a need to better understand the true potential of these items.

Leveraging these devices should be an organic process of finding their ultimate potential by using them in the ways they were designed to be used. Lastly, the third article is in so many words arguing for the use of apprenticeship. So, not learning a skill in a sterile classroom environment removed from all relevant context, but learning a skill out in the environment in which the skill will be used.

I studied a bit of Japanese in college and it was in a semi-immersion environment. Meaning that in the classroom we could only speak Japanese. If we spoke and

English the teacher would stare at use intensely and nod his head with a sharp grunt. Although I only took about a year of Japanese in College I remember much more of that language than I do of the three years I took of the German language in High-School. In that class, we predominantly used English to try to learn German. That is an unnatural way to learn a language, it is out of context.

However, Neither Japanese nor German is my strongest foreign language. I also lived in Thailand for seven years after college. I made it a point to try to learn Thai, but even if I hadn't I would have learned much more Thai language than the other two simply because it was a natural even. I was surrounded by Thai People, speaking Thai about Thai culture, Thai food, Thai art, Thai landscape... etc. It wasn't that I was learning Thai because it would be nice to be able to chat with some Thai people. I was learning Thai so that I could find my way back to my apartment. I was learning Thai so that I could order the food I felt like eating. There is no better way to achieve deep learning than to place that task between you and your survival.

In closing, all three of these articles fit well into my ideology of learning. I place a high value on finding time to "unplug" and take time away from the screens. I also believe that there are higher realms of understanding that we could achieve if we

found more creative, effective and efficient ways of leveraging technology. Most fundamental of these themes is experiential learning. I can tell you whatever I want but until you witness it for yourself, you don't really know it, not really.

Works Cited

Padlet Project

https://padlet.com/david_kolmer/e885fnw9kb29

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