

## Learning Analytics Goals, Methods, Trends

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Bernd Krämer FernUniversität in Hagen, Germany



## **Our Panelists Today**

Lynn Patterson, Kennesaw State University, USA Denis Gillet, EPFL, Switzerland Dirk Malzahn, OrgaTech GmbH, Germany Andrew Sung, New Mexico Tech, USA Stephen White, University of Huddersfield, UK



## Analytics

Use of

- IT
- OR
- Statistics

To extract useful information from data

Google/ Web Analytics Business Analytics Learning Analytics

. . .



### **Learning Analytics?**



### FernUniversität in Hagen

## **Example: Network of Interactions (SNAPP)**



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## **Example: Student Activity Monitor (KU Leuven)**



http://www.role-showcase.eu/role-tool/student-activity-monitor



## **Target Groups & Purposes**

- Educators
  - Improve teaching support (IST guidance, learning design, content, ...)
  - Understand & predict student performance and behavior
  - ...
- Individual learners
  - Personalize recommendations, learning environments options
  - Optimize learning process
  - ...
- Groups of learners
  - Analyze & exploit social interaction structure
  - Enhance collaborative interaction
  - ...
- Tool builders



## **Topics of Interest**

- What can we observe and how?
- What is working best and worst?
- How can we increase the attention of students?
- Which methods and tools work well in which context?
- What are current research challenges?
- What about privacy?
- ...



# LEARNING ANALYTICS THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

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ACHI, VALENCIA, SPAIN, FEBRUARY 3, 2012





# BACKGROUND

- **STELLAR** European Network of Excellence on Technology Enhanced Learning
  - **Project**: http://www.stellarnet.eu
  - **Portal**: http://www.teleurope.eu
- Activities and Instruments dedicated to Research and Education 2.0



# BACKGROUND

- ROLE European Integrated Research Project on Responsive Open Personal Learning Environments (PLE)
  - http://www.role-project.eu
  - http://www.role-widgetstore.eu
  - http://graasp.epfl.ch
- Ecosystem of services, platforms and actors supporting self-directed learning

# THE GOOD

# • The Will

- Advanced Visualization
- Informed Recommendation
- Group, Personal and Ubiquitous Awareness (the augmented learner)
- The Way
  - Educational Data Mining
  - Federated Repositories

# THE BAD

- The LMS King is (almost) dead, Long live the new PLE King
- From controlled institutional settings to plastic cloud ecosystems





# THE BAD

- Where can we find their data ?
  Federated repositories
- How do we deal with multiple identities ?
   e-Identity



Harvesting By whom, where ?



Identity matching

# THE UGLY

- Added value (if any) for students or teachers ?
- **Privacy** Kid should not be tracked (traces and patterns anonymized thanks to group login)
- **Trust** Who host the data and their analytics ?
- **Context** Relevance with activities and modalities (most of the time lost in analytics)
- **Ubiquity** Blurring frontier between social activities, knowledge management and learning

# **CONTACT & LINKS**

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### **Digital World 2012**

eKNOW 2012 The Fourth International Conference on Information, Process, and Knowledge Management

### Panel eKNOW / eLmL Improvement of Error Prediction in Custom Software Systems

Dirk Malzahn OrgaTech GmbH, Germany





### Introduction

• The Quality of Custom Software is highly dependent on the qualification of software developers, using appropriate methods

29.02.2012

• Dependent on qualification, experience and social and communication skills of the developers, the selected methodology has significant influence on the quality of the project and product





### Error Tracking, Methodology Selection and Training Needs Analysis by Shewhart Control Charts



29.02.2012

 $\rightarrow$ 

🤥 OrgaTech









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# **Learning Assessment**

• Why? • What to assess? course objectives learning outcomes • Who to conduct assessment? instructors students other stakeholders

## Learning Assessment

- How to assess?
  - questionnaires, surveys (students, graduates, alumni, employers, etc.)
  - teaching evaluations
  - instructor / faculty self-study

## **Course Objectives and Program Outcomes**

- Course objectives can be measured immediately at course completion
- Program outcomes require longer-term evaluation through a variety of mechanisms
- Formulate relevant, meaningful, and measurable objectives and outcomes
- Develop effective algorithms and tools for measurement
- Documentation is required

# **E-learning Assessment**

- Course objectives
- Educational program outcomes
- Technology and delivery method
- Cost-effectiveness, etc.

# **Data Collection and Analysis**

- Challenges in E-learning Assessment
  - diverse audience
  - geographical / temporal constraints
  - different tools, technologies, delivery modes
- E-learning provides many opportunities for data collection

Evaluation of learning effectiveness can be assisted / enhanced through data analysis

# Questions

To what extent can data analytics be used to
 simplify the task of E-learning assessment?
 produce reliable assessment of learning effectiveness?

⇒ Methods / guidelines / tools / algorithms?

# **Data Analysis Techniques**

- Factor analysis
- Learning machine modeling, feature ranking and selection
- Important factors in e-learning effectiveness?
  - Motivation of students
  - Preparation and experience of teacher
  - Ease of use of technology
  - Delivery method

# Learning Analytics: Goals, Methods, Trends

eKnow / eLmL Panel

Stephen White IARIA Fellow The analogy used by Simon really hit home to me...

Keynote Address, Ascilite 2011, 6 Dec., Hobart, Tasmania www.leishman-associates.com.au/ascilite2011

## Learning Analytics Dream, Nightmare or Fairydust?



### Simon Buckingham Shum

Knowledge Media Institute, The Open University UK

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http://people.kmi.open.ac.uk/sbs/2011/12/learning-analytics-ascilite2011-keynote/



# the biggest innovation in aquatics has arrived.

Understanding what is happening inside your aquarium is vital to ensuring that the aquatic life remains healthy. This revolutionary water monitoring device allows you to continuously track the changes in the water parameters, alerting you to the problems before they affect the fish. Protect your fish with a seneye monitor.



fulition. There are lots of options for connecting your seneye device to your P



#### How is your aquatic ecosystem?

"This means that the keeper can be notified before water conditions directly harm the fish—an assured outcome of predictive software that lets you know if it looks like the pH is due to drop, or the temperature is on its way up.

### This way, it's a real fish saver, as opposed to a forensic examiner, post-wipeout."

(From a review of Seneye, in a hobbyist magazine)

http://people.kmi.open.ac.uk/sbs/2011/12/learning-analytics-ascilite2011-keynote/

#### How is your learning ecosystem?

This means that the **teacher** can be notified before learning conditions directly harm the students — an assured outcome of predictive software that lets you know if it looks like engagement is due to drop, or attainment is on its way up.

This way, it's a real student saver, as opposed to a forensic examiner, post-wipeout.



The pond version is something that I had been discussing recently...







(my baby champion)

... because I keep koi for a hobby – actually...

www.koisense.net

### I Keep Water, not Koi

Because an optimum environment is vital

These all contribute: kH pH Nitrification Ammonia Nitrate

Water tests are available – used a lot by new koi keepers - but... how the koi behave is an indicator of something not being right – by monitoring them I am monitoring the environment

### I would suggest...

# Same with education

## DANGER



An impressive use of technology – which may be needed by some.

But... will it result in loss of ability to park? What happens the day it doesn't work? A tutor, through observing and interacting with their students, can identify what is good or bad.

Potential for de-skilling tutors and adding to cognitive burden of students

So... not suggesting there is no need for learning analytics. But... need to very carefully consider:

- When to apply?
- Who it is aimed at?
- Who will benefit?
- What may we lose?