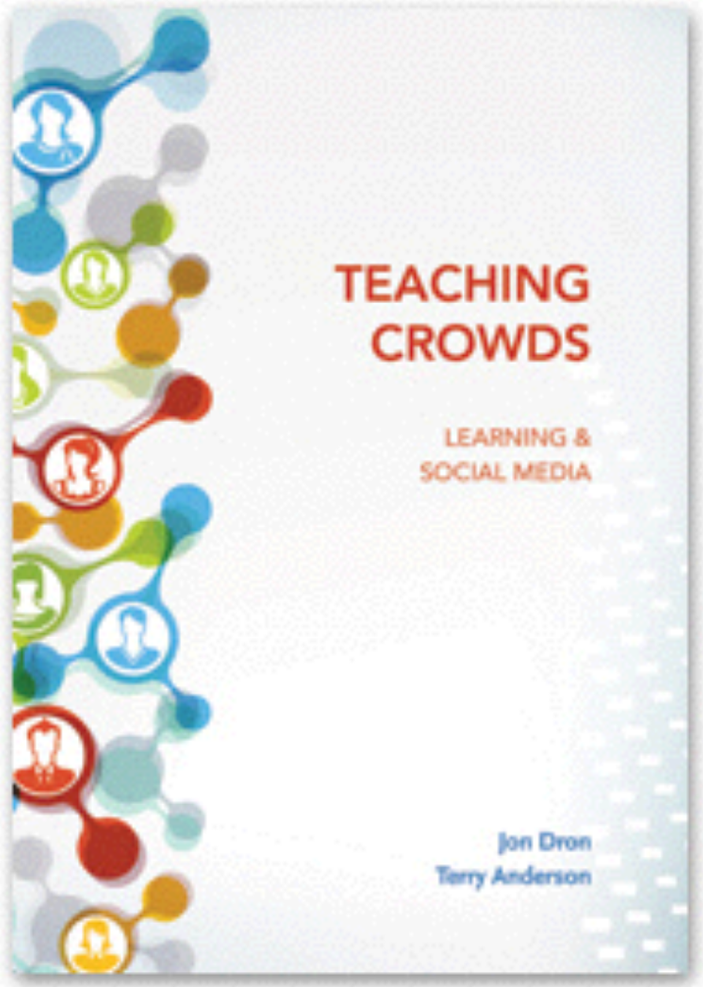
Teaching Crowds

Jon Dron *
Athabasca University

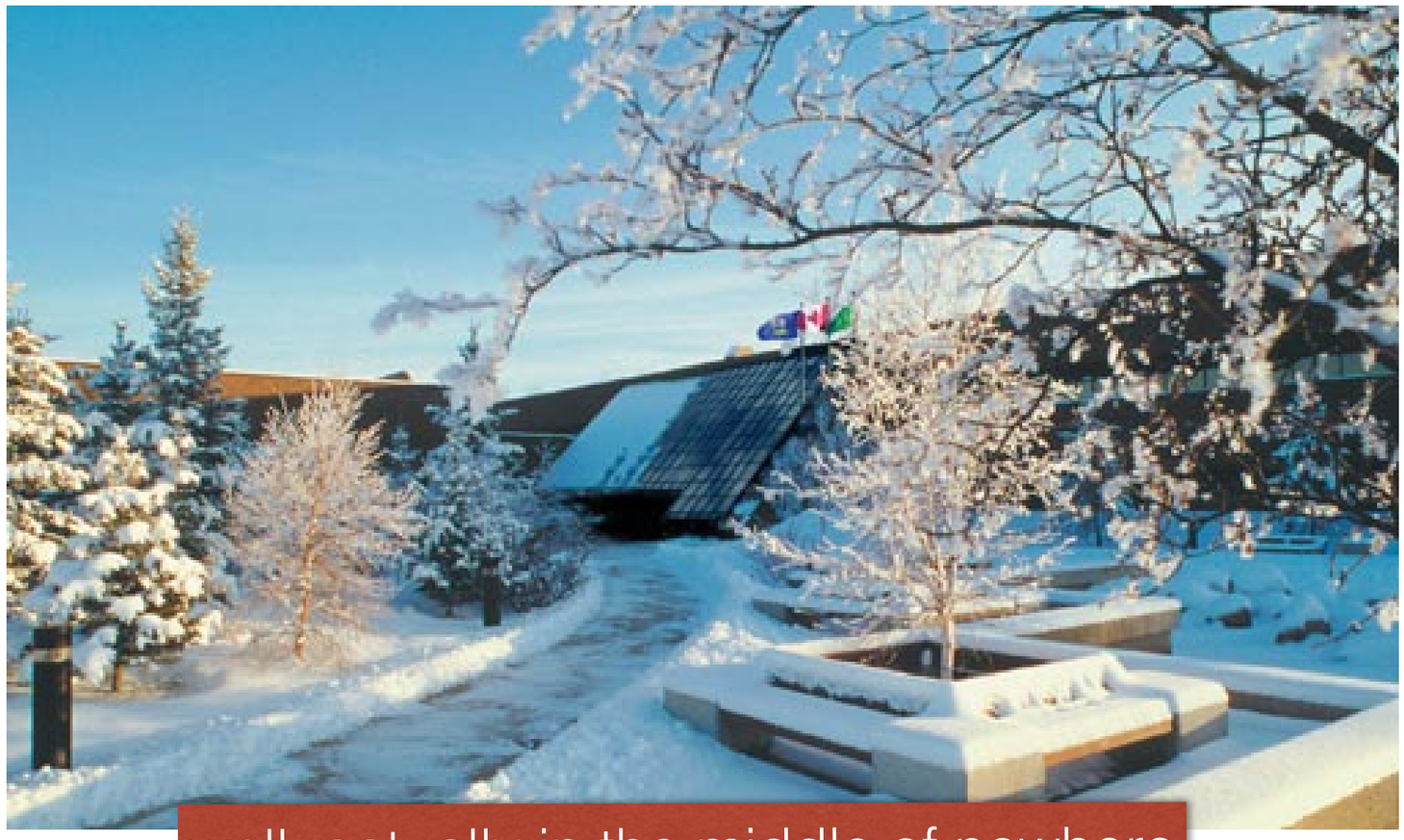
Athabasca University
FACULTY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
School of Computing & Information Systems



* with the help of Terry Anderson

Athabasca University

everywhere.

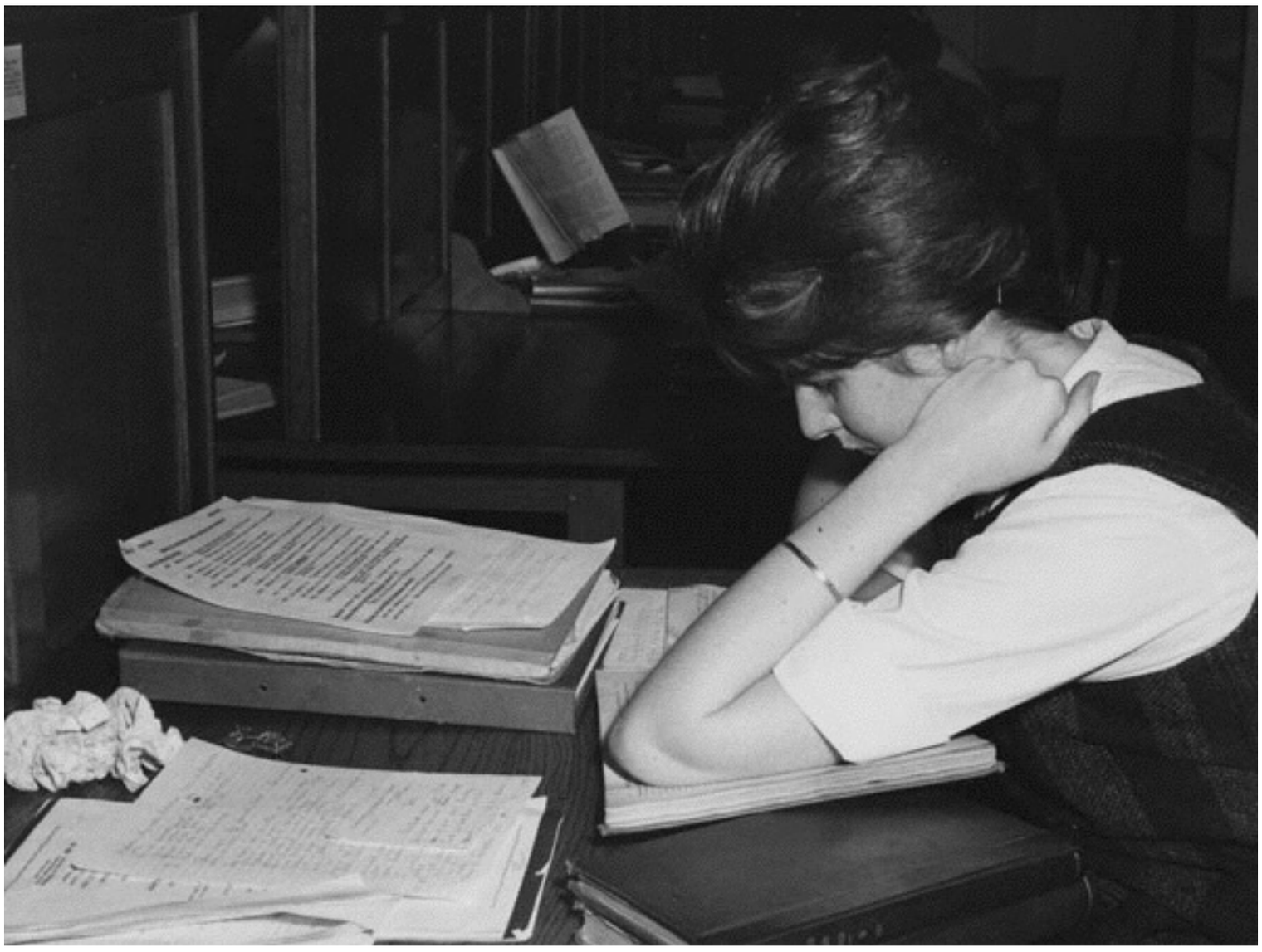


well, actually in the middle of nowhere

(-40°F = -40°C)

distance education is great

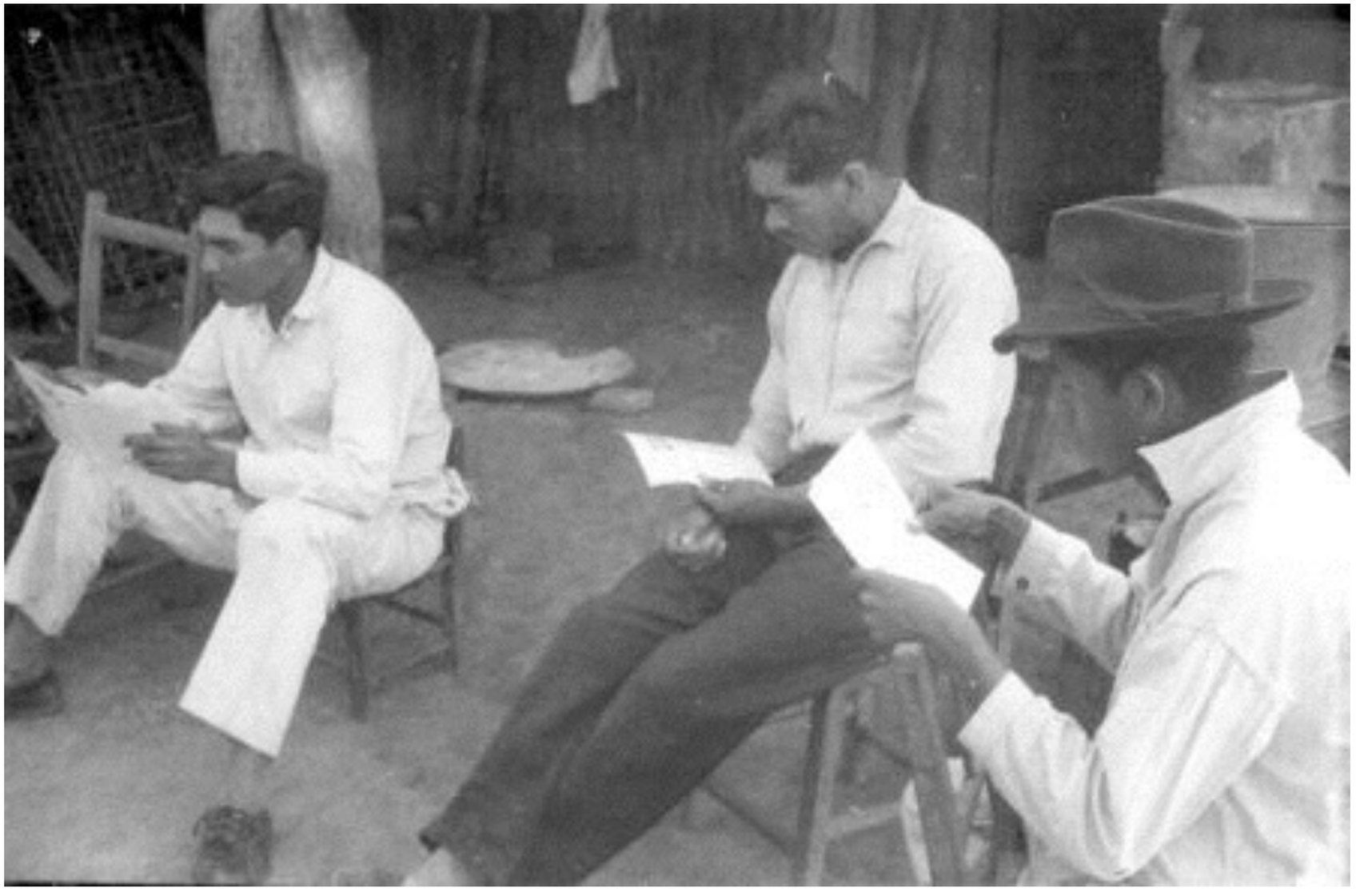
any time



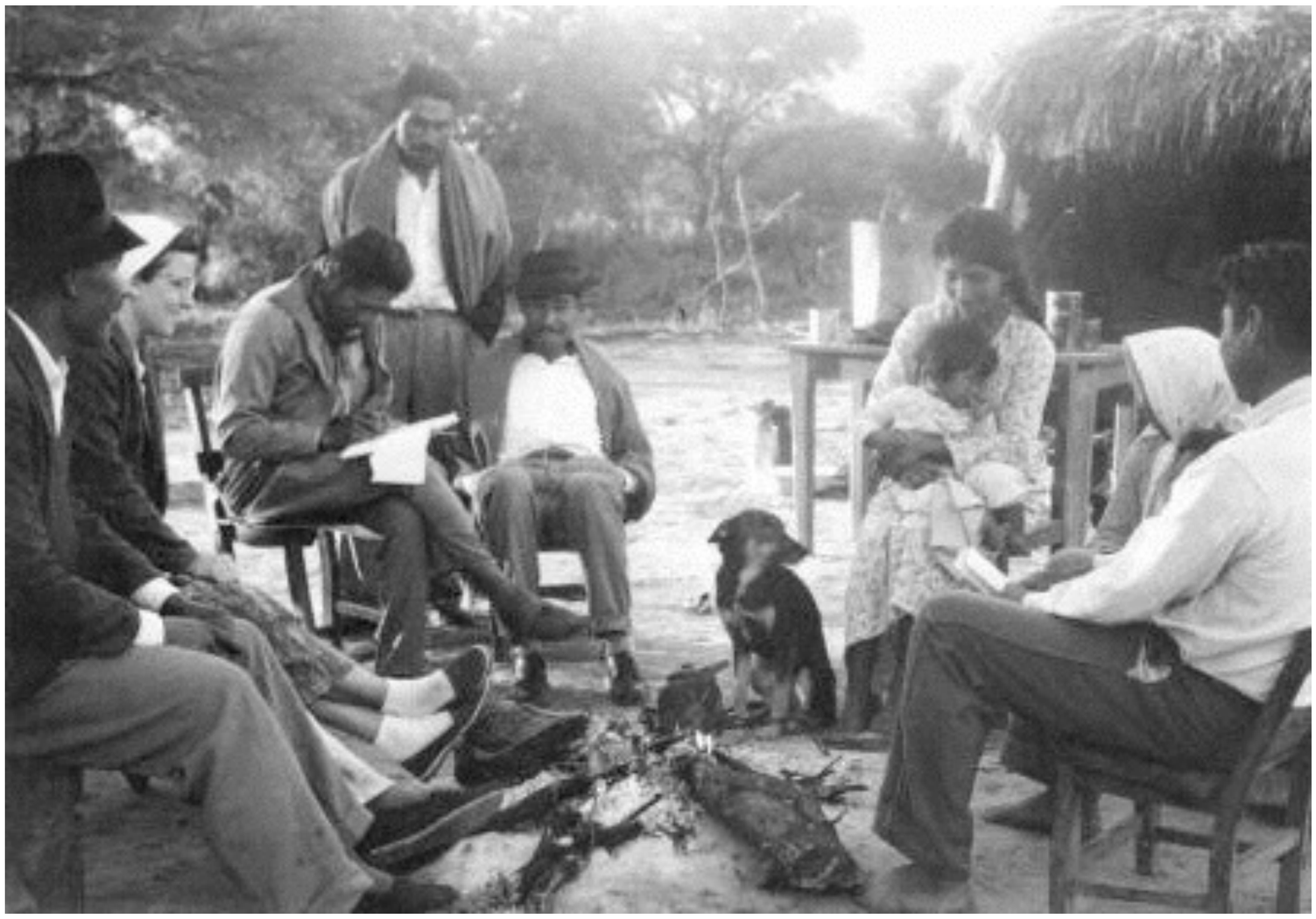
anywhere

any pace

anyone

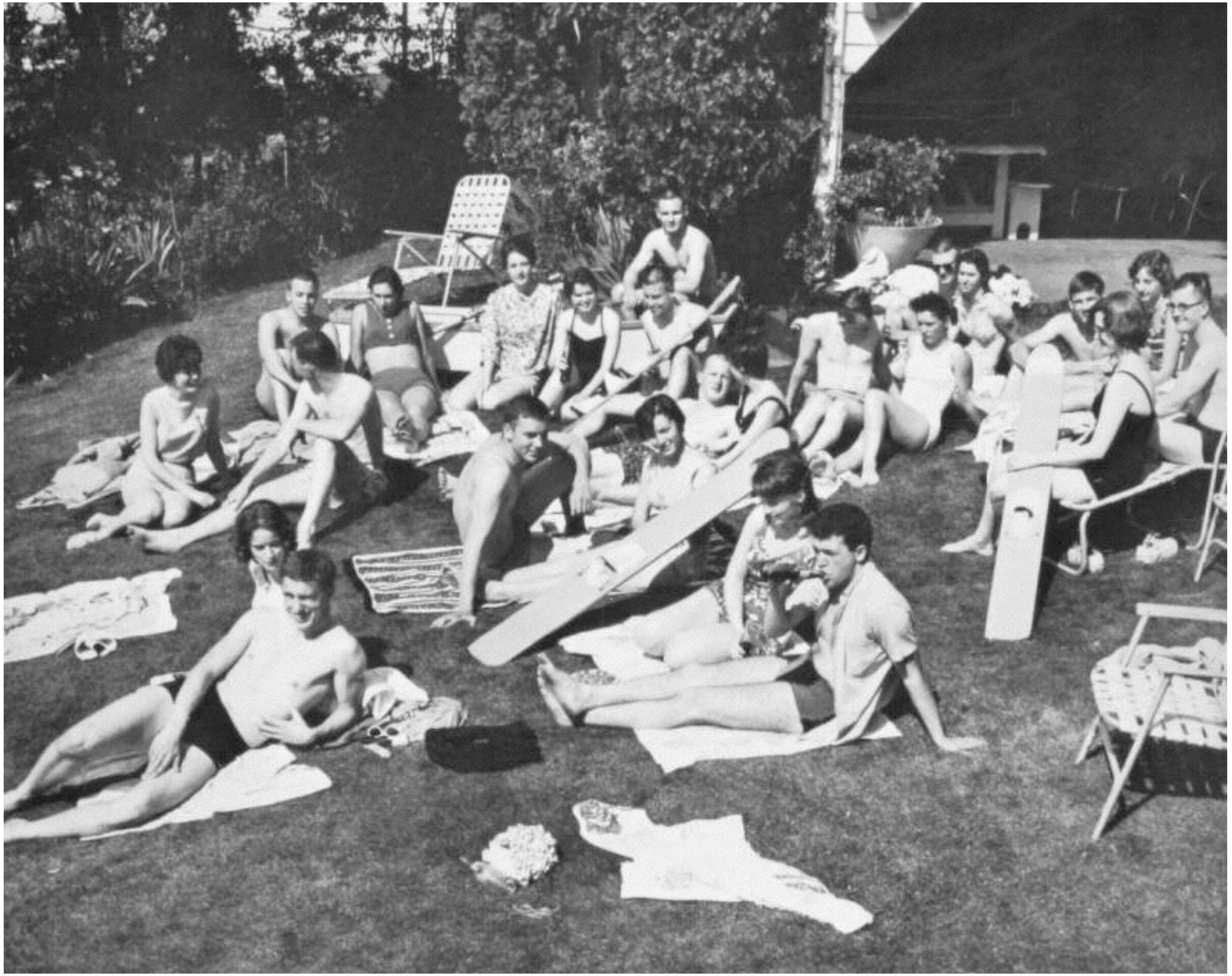


with anyone



under your control

but...

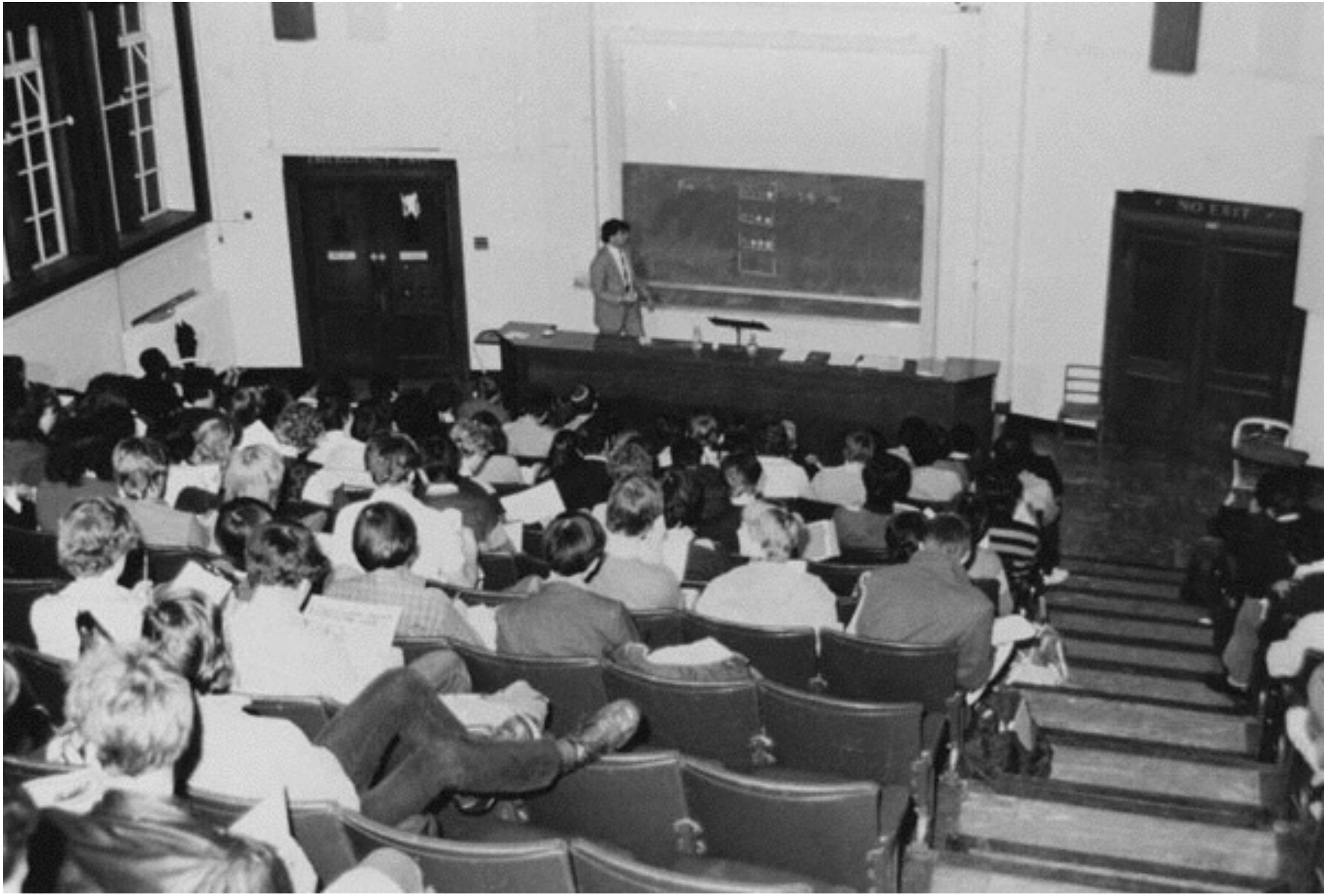


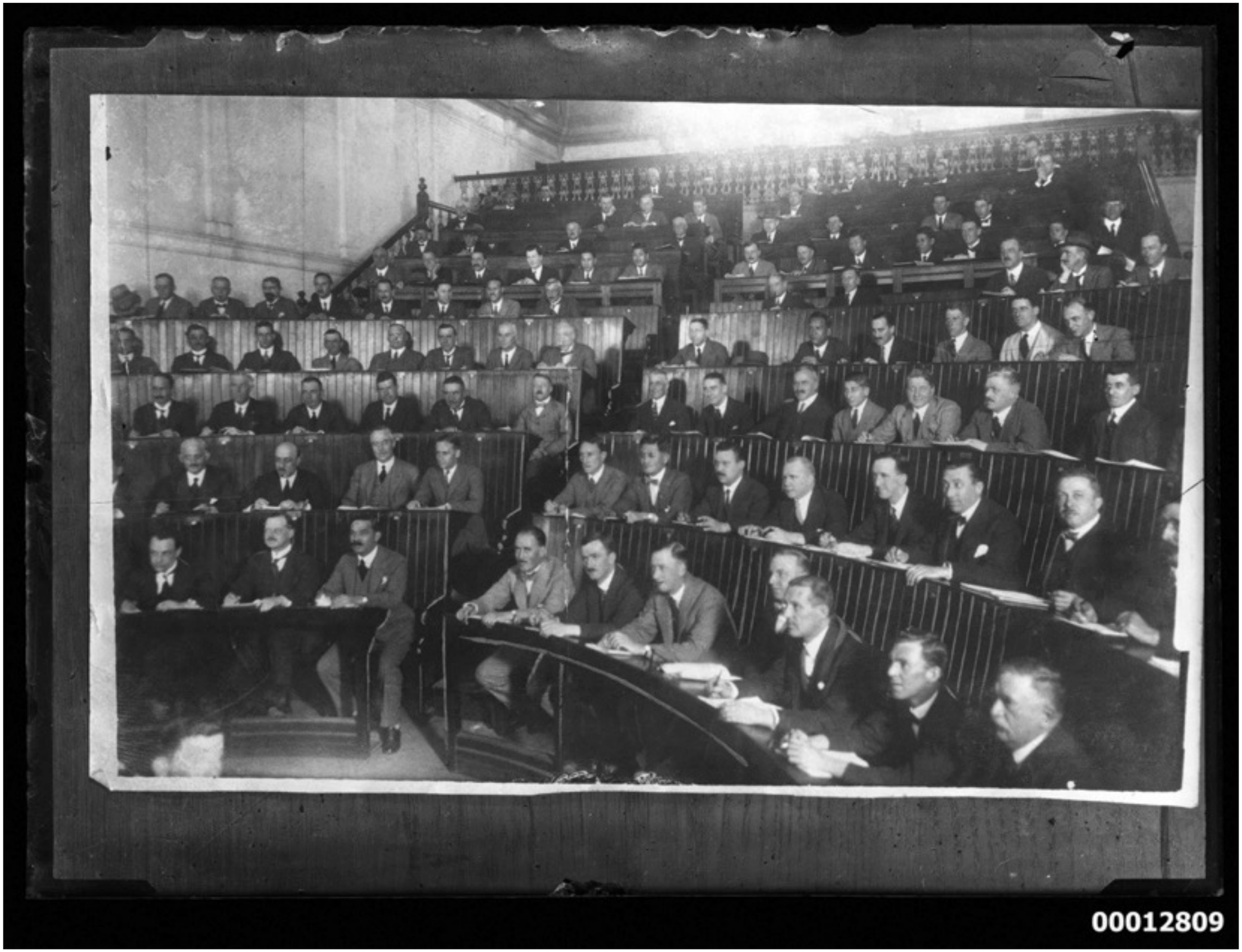
IS DICK
DEAD OR
ALIVE?

LINCOLN
SONG BOOK

it's not just outside the classroom that unplanned learning with other people happens

distance education tends to concentrate on planned learning




00012809

teaching is not (just)
telling

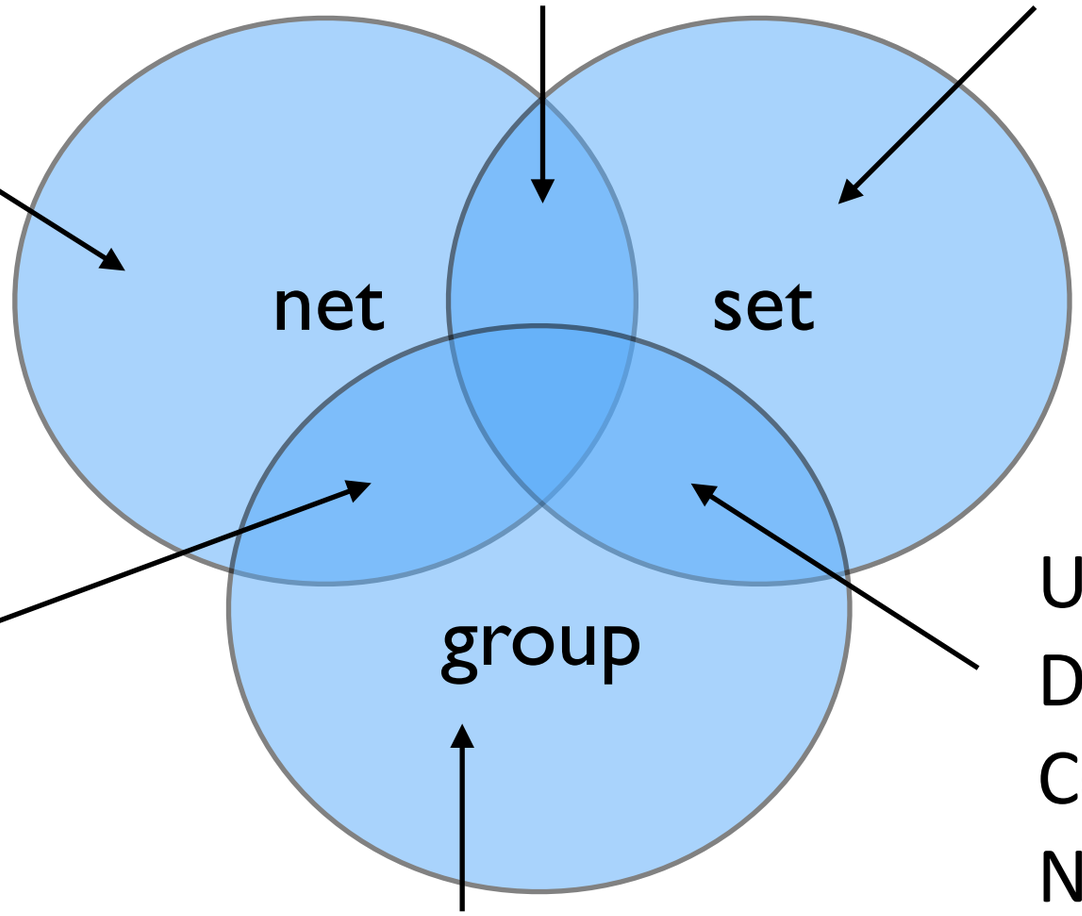
A bit of theory: social learning

sets, nets and groups

Wiki editors,
Alumni networks,
Communities of interest

Social networks -
Friends, Work,
Community

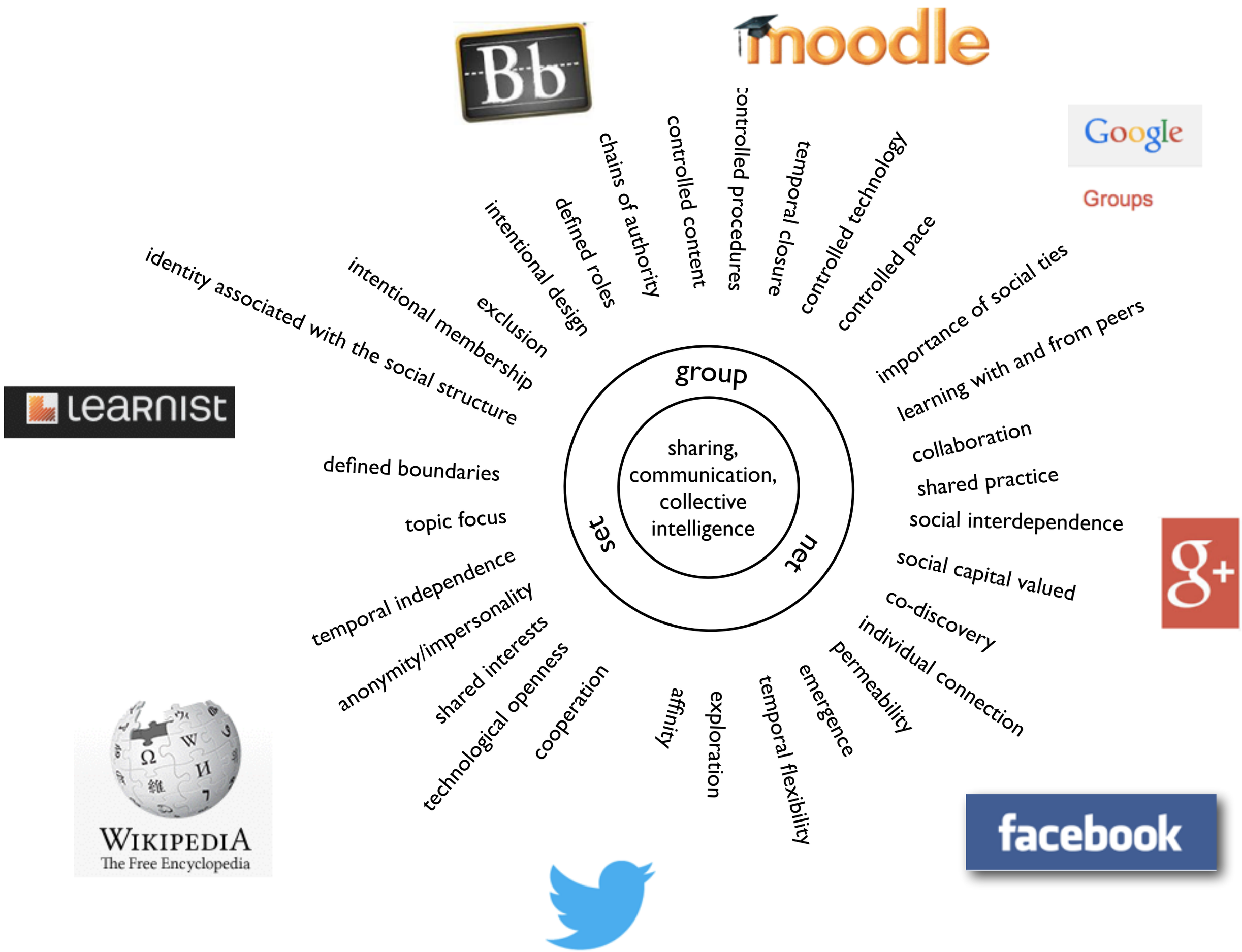
Subject areas,
Geographically
collocated people,
People with shared
characteristics,
abilities, etc



Ad-hoc learning
networks,
Clubs & societies,
Communities of
practice

Universities,
Departments,
Companies,
Nations,
Tribes

Classes,
Tutorial groups,
Seminars,
Project teams


Bb
moodle
Google
Groups
learnist
WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia
facebook
group
sharing, communication, collective intelligence
set
net
controlled procedures
temporal closure
controlled technology
controlled pace
controlled content
chains of authority
defined roles
intentional design
exclusion
intentional membership
identity associated with the social structure
importance of social ties
learning with and from peers
collaboration
shared practice
social interdependence
social capital valued
co-discovery
individual connection
permeability
emergence
temporal flexibility
exploration
affinity
cooperation
technological openness
shared interests
anonymity/impersonality
temporal independence
topic focus
defined boundaries

First there were groups…

pre-planned learning

collaborating on tasks

motivation

Groups are good for…

reducing loneliness

trust

social capital

caring

developing networks

scalability

diverse viewpoints

groupthink

Group weaknesses

limits on learner control

power structures

efficiency

SharePoint

Discourse

moodle

Desire2Learn

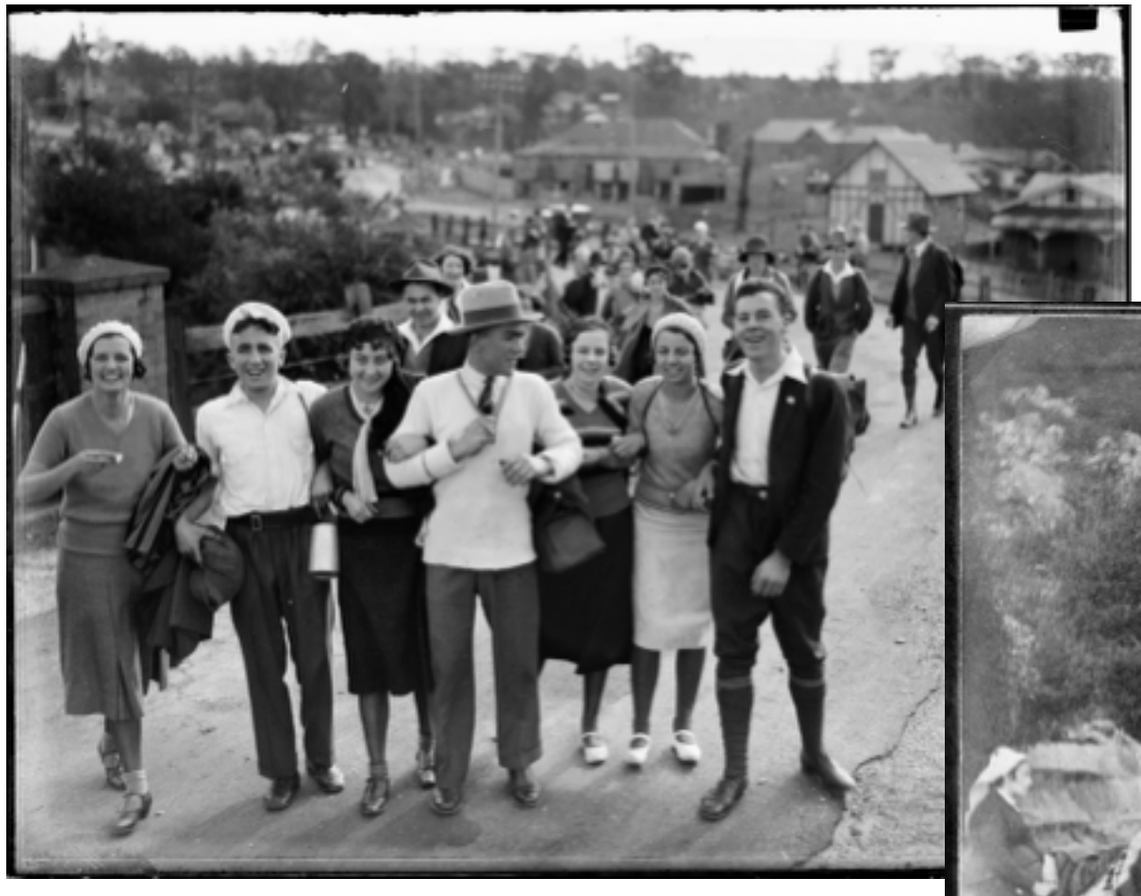
Bb

canvas NETWORK

Drupal™

Joomla!®

…and networks



lifelong learning

serendipity

finding answers

motivation

Nets are good for…

scalability

learner control

reducing loneliness

adaptation

social capital

inspiration

lack of process

lack of direction

inefficient paths

preferential attachment

Network weaknesses

connection matters more than wisdom

lack of structure

echo chambers

Google
scholar

elgg

WhatsApp

friendfeed

in

facebook

tumblr.

Google+

There were always sets…

…but we didn’t pay much attention to them

discovery

serendipity

finding answers

anonymity

exploring topics

finding people

Sets are good for…

learner control

reducing loneliness

scalability

diverse perspectives

starting groups and networks

bad people

stupid people

anonymity

lack of process

Set weaknesses

reliability

lack of caring

lack of structure

weak social ties

StumbleUpon

foursquare

mathoverflow

Quora

edX

coursera

Pinterest

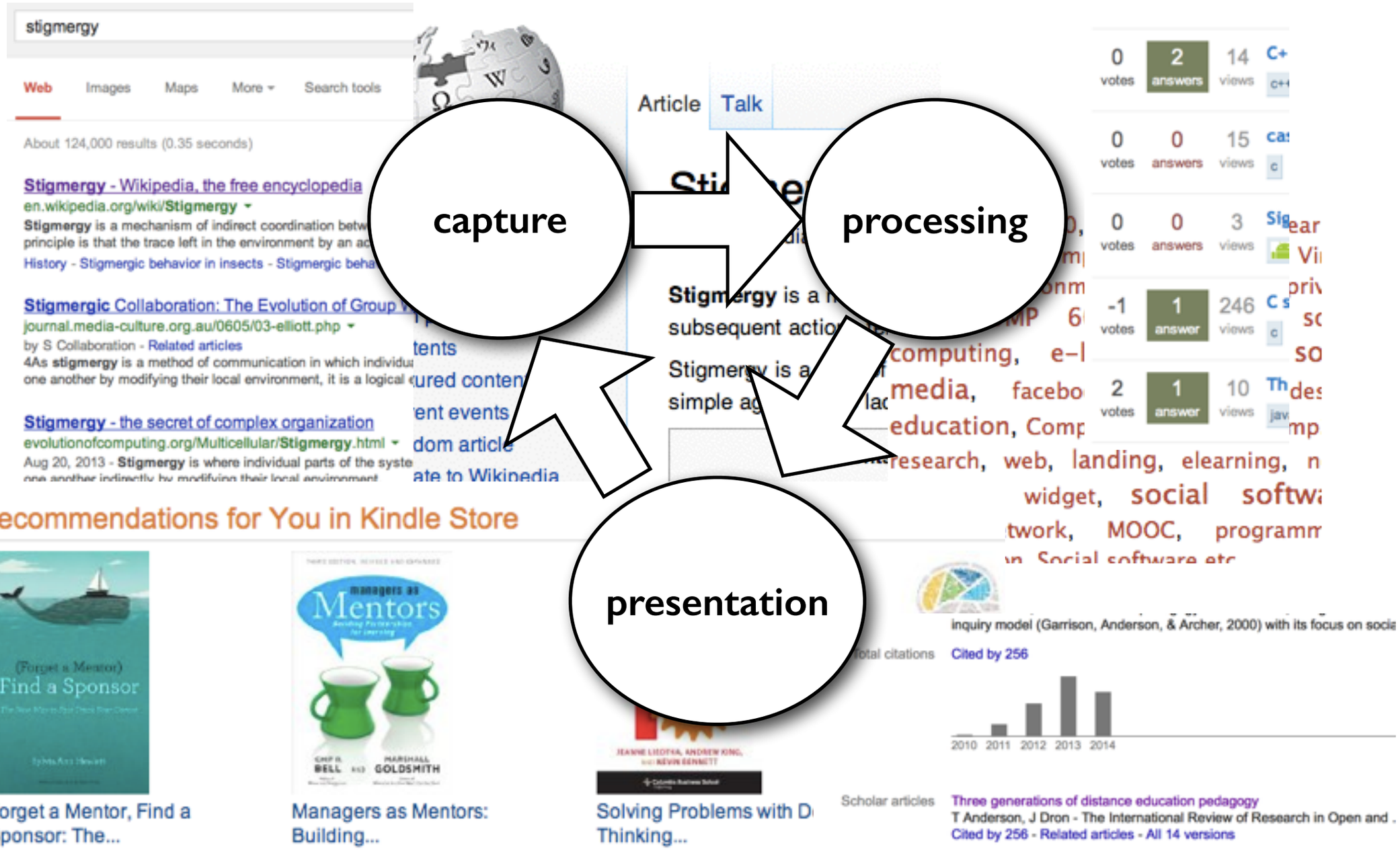
learnist

KHANACADEMY

Slashdot

stackoverflow

Overcoming set weaknesses: collectives



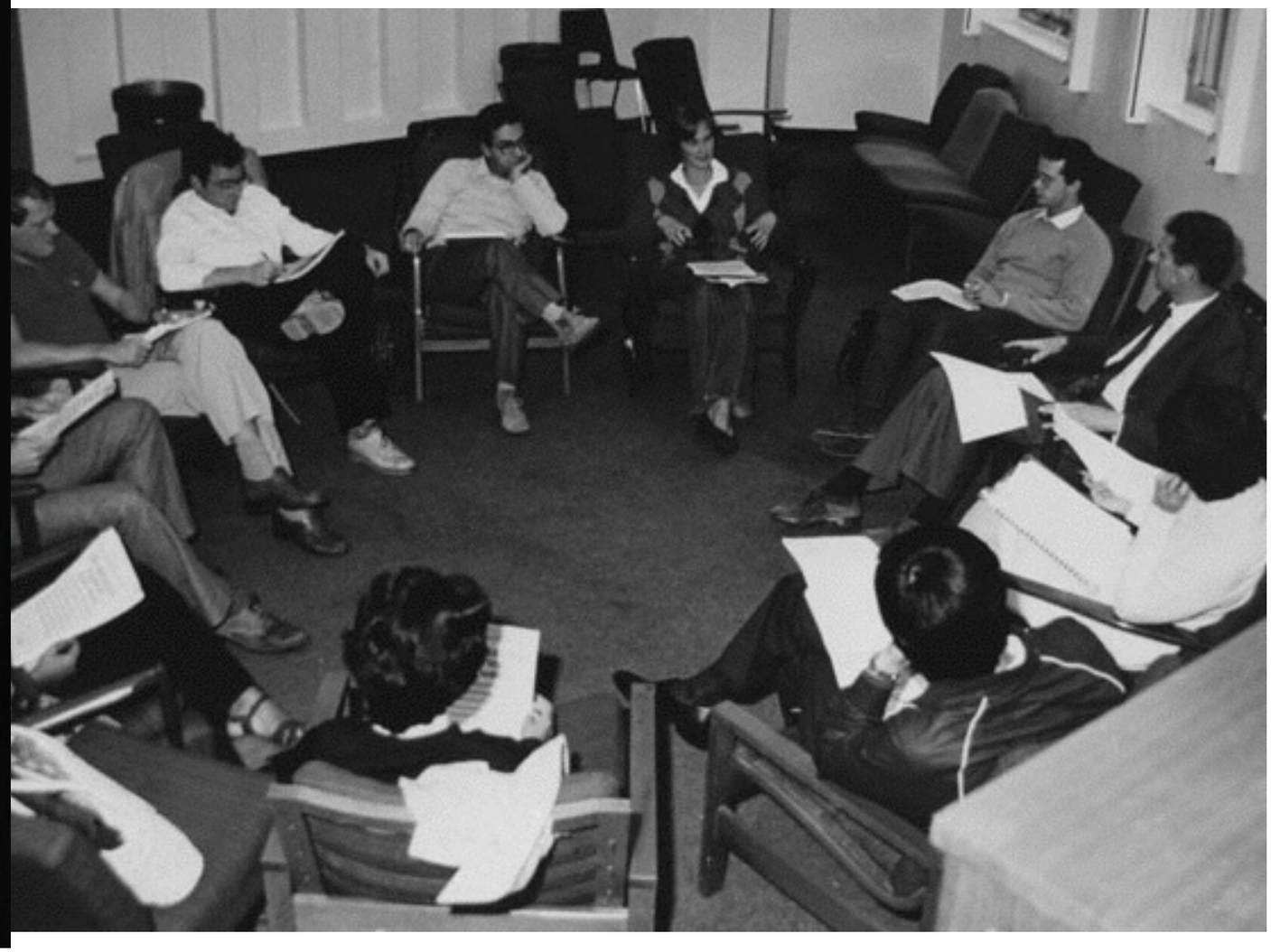
back to AU…

a university education is about...

the stuff we are taught

the learning community

people we learn with and from



a culture of learning

exposure to ideas

challenging beliefs

building relationships and connections

being
inspired

as true of teachers as it is of students

Athabasca Landing

a space to

share
communicate
connect &
create

Welcome to COMP 466

Using Moodle

COMP 466 Syllabus

SCIS Virtual Helpdesk

Student Manual

COMP 466 General Conference

News forum

Tutor Marked Exercise 1

Tutor Marked Exercise 2

Tutor Marked Exercise 3

Tutor Marked Exercise 4

COMP 466 Course Coordinator

Week 1

Familiarize yourself with the Study Guide.

Complete Unit 1.

Week 2

Complete Unit 2.

Week 3

Complete and submit TME 1.

Week 4

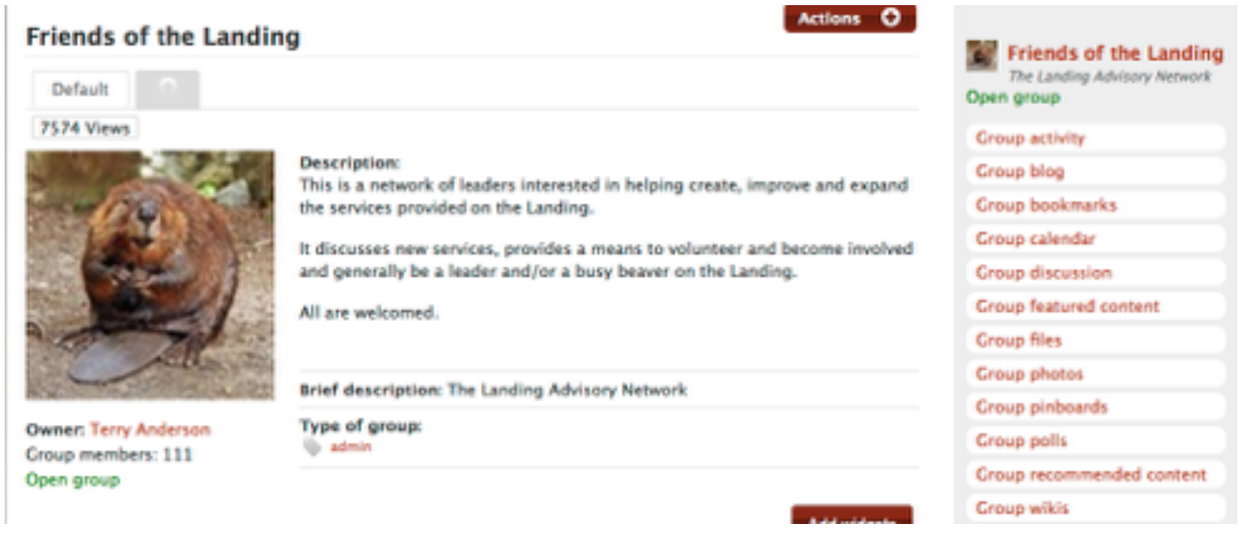
Start working on Unit 3.

Week 5

Complete Unit 3.

a space between

Participative design and management



a process, not a product

Some principles

every post belongs to someone

many reasons to visit, more reasons to stay

ubiquitous dialogue for every post

ownership

control

diversity

equality

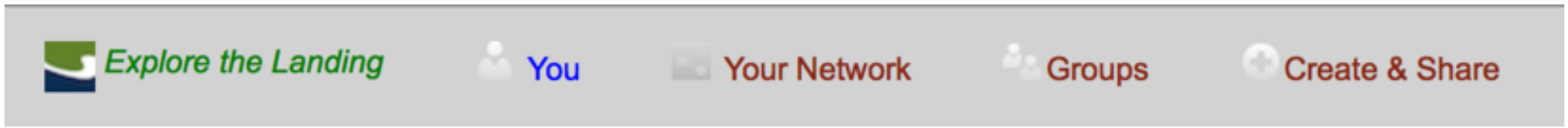
sociability

very flexible and powerful tools with which to create social spaces, with discretionary access control throughout

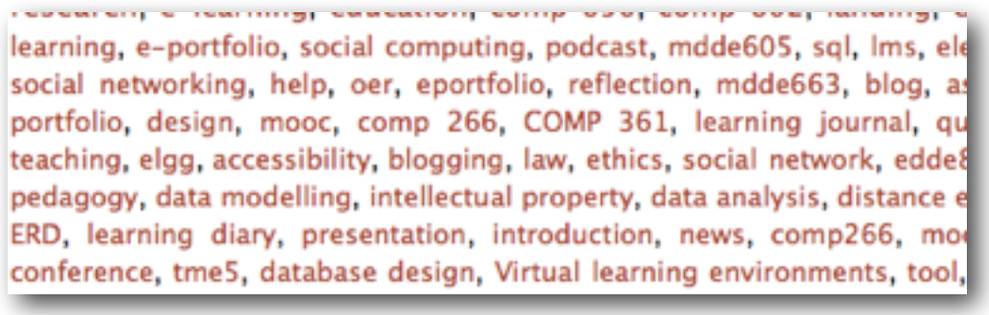
everyone has as much power as everyone else

deliberate support for

sets nets groups



and collectives



many tools

elgg®

Your Dashboard | Research | teaching | My stuff | 266 moodle | Following | MyAU | Add widgets

Group membership
SelfAdjustingSystems
Group that serves as a bridge of communication for essay work.
Soft things, hard things and invisible elephants
Jon Dron's contribution to #change11.
Main page

E-learning blogs
eLearnSpace | Donald Clark's Plan B | Virtual Canuck | OLDaily
elearnspace
Open Symposium: Policy and Strategy for Learning Analytics Deployment
We (SoLAR) are organizing an online symposium on Policy and Strategy for

Tag Tracker
12 Awesome Social Media Facts and Statistics for 2013
By Jon Dron 23 September 2013 @ 12:53pm
social media, social network, statistics, facebook, google+, twitter, pinterest, tumblr
www.jeffbullas.com - An

3 minute thesis
Posted to group: EDDE 806 Doctoral Research Seminar
Three minute thesis competition
Watch this video from Australia or do a YouTube search on 3 minute T

Introductory podcast
By Jon Dron 9 November 2010 @ 3:20pm
Introduction, COMP 607
A very brief hello and introduction from the course author

People you may know
Sandra Law
7 followers: Mary Pringle, Gle
12 shared groups: Atheists at
collaborative vision & strategy
Analytics, TLSTN, Web Confer

techniques to help with the writing process, despite the n
to time. I liked...

My tips for writing
By Kulwant Gill 2 days ago
I find that when I am feeling overwhelmed or s
I have realized that when I try to write during this period

Unit 2 Files
By David Scarff 2 days ago
Posted to group: COMP 266

Critical Review
By Tony Corallo October 11, 2013 - 10:47pm Comments (1)
mais606
We just finished the Critical Review draft and it was a cho
it comes to the MLA style. Thank goodness for the resou
do not remember having...

Quality and OER: A response to David Wiley
By Rory McGreal October 11, 2013 - 5:39pm

Groups > Your groups
Your groups
Academic Blogging C
Academic Blogging Circle
Academic web sites
Academic Web and network to
Accessibility at AU
accessibility and inclusive des

Site Tag Cloud
COMP602, comp650, sc
research, e-learning, educa
learning, e-portfolio, social
social networking,
portfolio, design,
teaching, elgg, acc
data mo
ng dia
tme5,
ational
manag

Group activity
Group blog
Group bookmarks
Group calendar
Group discussion
Group featured content
Group files
Group photos
Group pinboards
Group polls
Group recommended content
Group wikis

Soft things, hard things and invisible elephants
Where to look first
Overview of the main ideas
Suggested activities
Things to think about
The Goldilocks effect

Jon Dron
Tag cloud
About me
Jon Dron
Posted to group: Accessibility at AU
Drafts of FAQs that are intended to remove the confusion around
environment more generally. Please provide feedback on these q
are they clear, would a link to additional resources help or just c
1. What's wrong with using tables for layout?
Although it is possible to use tables for layout of elements (cours
recommended. You should try to format courses using css. If a l
is formatted in a way that makes it easily understandble by some
with layout tables and how to create accessible tables.
2. How do html heading levels help students navigate courses?
People who use screen readers (e.g. blind, visually impaired, lear
determine where they are on a course site. The screen reader an
content.

Latest poll
Messages
My polls
People you may know
Pinboards
Profile Completeness
Random Content
Recommended content
RSS Feed
TabText
Tag cloud
Top Tracker
The Wire
Twitter
Twitter search
(each: Add widget)

October 2013
Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat

Main folder
sounds
Pics
Presentations
Landing stuff

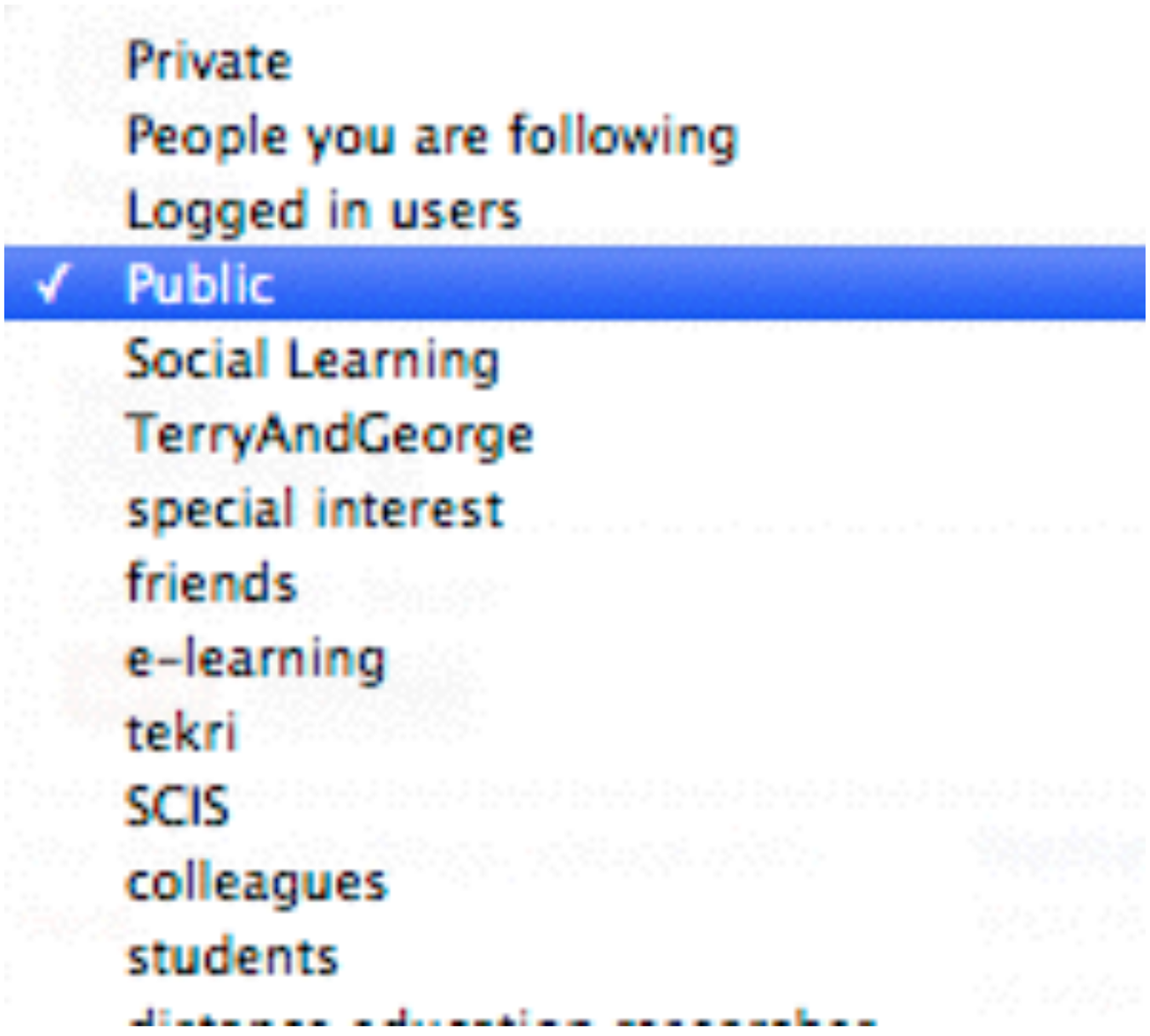
repository
Find a repository...
All Repositories | Forks | Sources | Private | Public
AU-Landing-Project/menu_builder
AU-Landing-Project/Comment-Tracker-1.8.x
AU-Landing-Project/au_taganything
AU-Landing-Project/Answers-Plugin-for-E...
AU-Landing-Project/Group-Member-River-...
AU-Landing-Project/au_subgroups
AU-Landing-Project/Welcomer-1.8.x
AU-Landing-Project/Extendafriend-1.8.x
AU-Landing-Project/rssimport
AU-Landing-Project/Notification-Subjects
Show 41 more repositories...

Cathedra
on, (0)
Huber's Beach, NS - L
Perfect Cosmopolitan
Lethbridge - Margue
Dragon Boats - Made
Cappadocia Summer
Thompson River sun
New York, New York
Gardening North of S
Huber's Beach, Jessome-Crote
Perfect Cosmop
Jenny Hayman,
Lethbridge - Ma

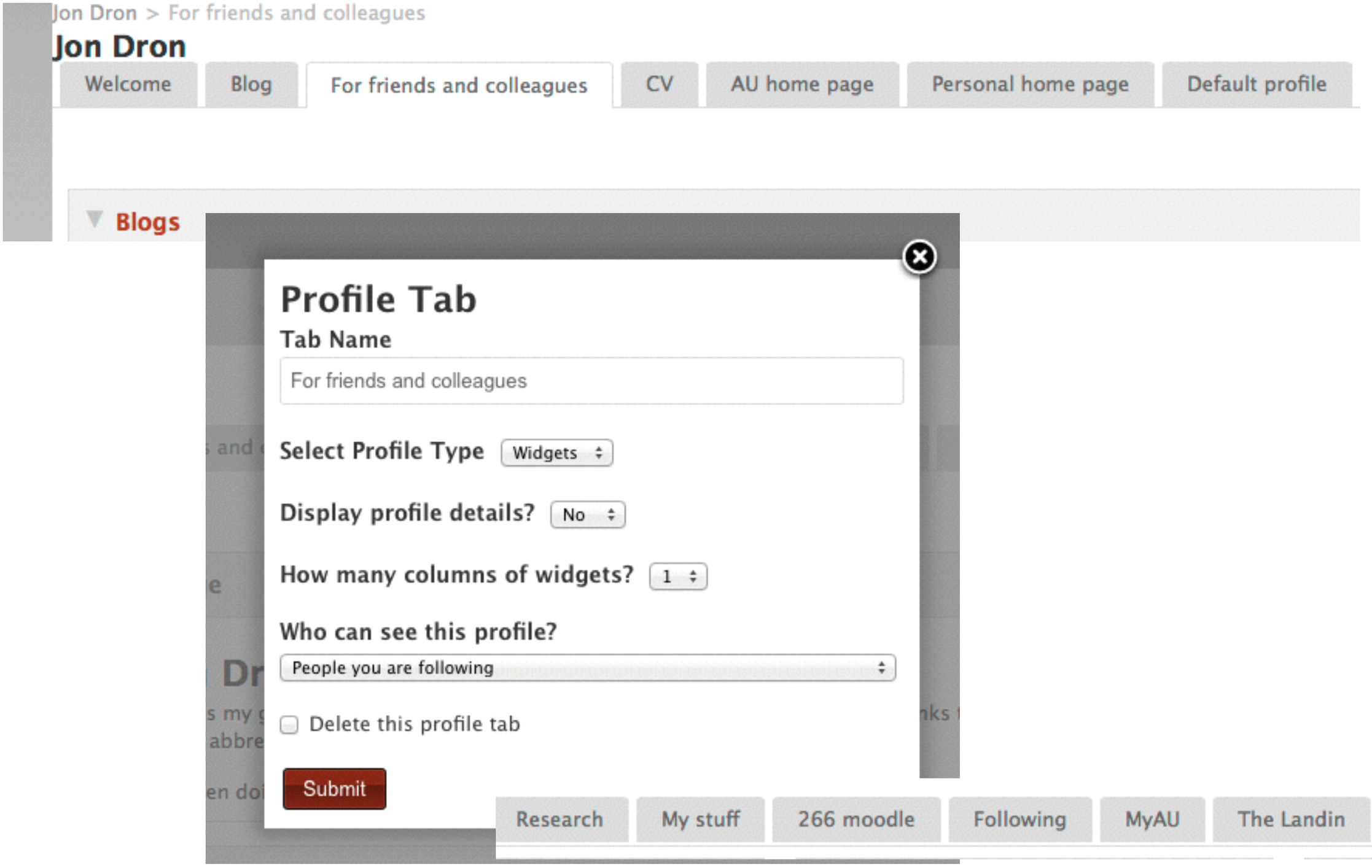
By Mark A. McCutcheon
(And for more on that
http://is.gd/VKEk5T)
By Mark A. McCutcheon
CUFABC made an exce
measuring university e
By George Siemens
Registration now open
bit.ly/15ILFOr
By Viviane Vladimirschi
Hi Jenni! Congratulatio
By Terry Anderson
Canada needs a nation
Globe. see http://bit.ly/1dW6jKX

work ou
Adam Gillespie
1 photos
Hiking the Camino in Spain
Athabasca Robotics Camp 2013
Fuhua (Oscar) Lin
4 photos
Gorge St. George Dam

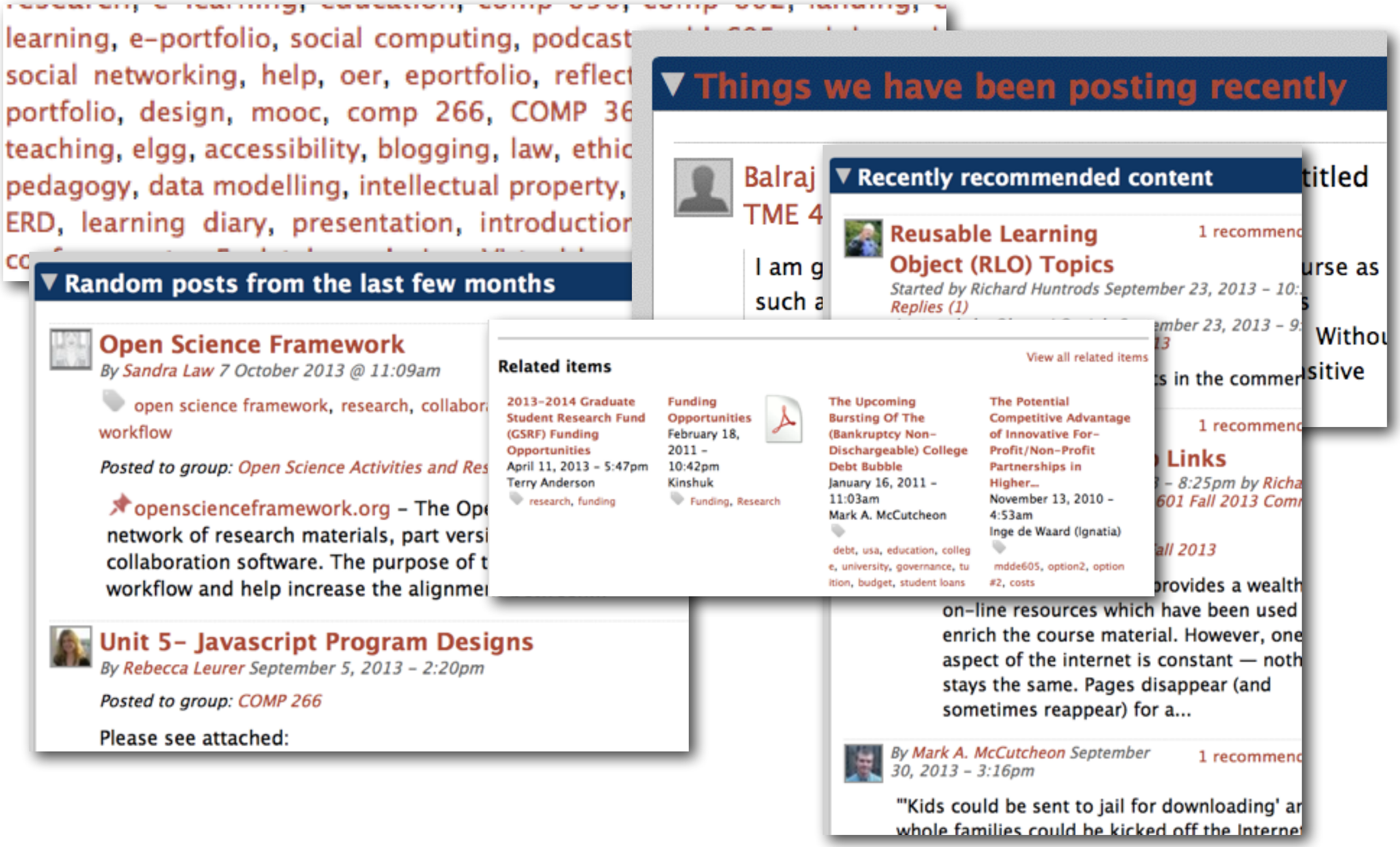
Discretionary access control



context shifting



Planned serendipity



every post an opportunity for dialogue

and ridiculously rich in information about them, so it is easy to decide not to buy things. But who needs Apple, Samsung, or Sony when you can get a no-name budget dual SIM Android phone for $70? Or any number of watch-phones, projectors, remote controlled doodahs and accessories to fit any need? Well, me. But I like browsing this site.

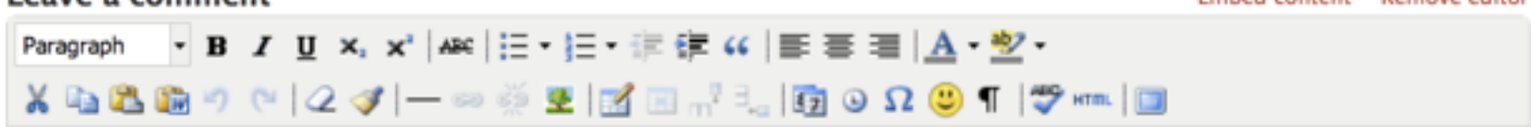
Comments

Are you familiar with DealExtreme? Aside from a custom-crafted eBay search, they're my favourite place for stuff from China and they've got a much wider selection on the low end.
Stephan Sokolow 17 hours ago

Delete
Edit comment

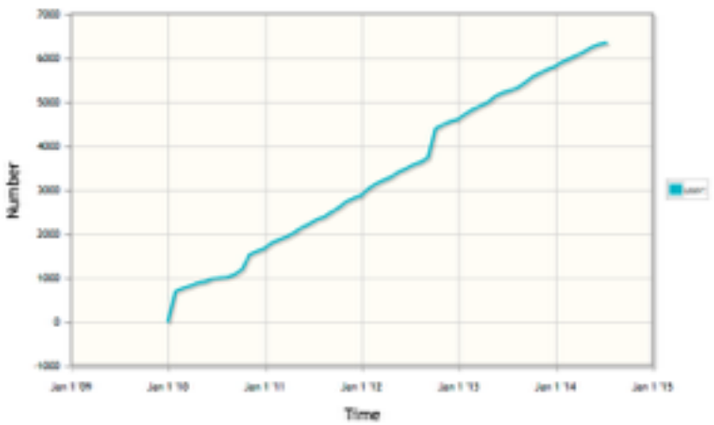
Leave a comment

Embed content Remove editor



Diverse interests

travel, media, OER, research, education, 605, camping, writing, music, queer, swimming, intellectual property, complexity, mdde 601, e-learning, literature, mooc, facebook, 602, learning technology, edublogging, mdde690, academic blogging circle, graduation, mcast, hiking, podcasting, mdde 605, mdde603, comp602, distance education, landing, sewing, photography, project management, mdde 603, instructional design, podcasts, mdde602, mdde601, hockey, soccer, mdde663, convocation, social media, sports, comp 650, pedagogy, running, mdde610, mdde 602, copyright, social network, tlstn, mdde605, travelling, learning, Virtual learning environments, #change11, gardening, Social software etc, cooking, online learning, internet, mdde 610, reading, elearning, teaching, podcast, toronto, open access, history, conference, art, mobile learning, social computing, journals, soft technology, mcasts, family, journal, technology, skiing, Athabasca, mdde604, audio, e-portfolio, movies, video, Edmonton, blogging, university, computers, social software, assessment, 603, Calgary, 604, lms, open educational resources



6,700 users

12,000 blog posts

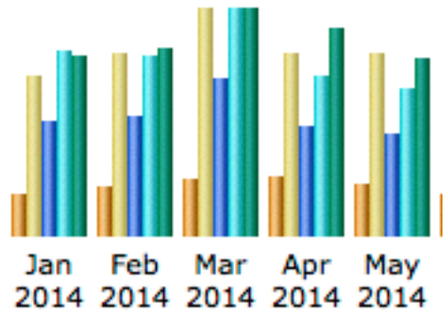
10,000 shared files

3,500 wikis

some successes

>20,000 unique visitors a month

450 groups



2,600 discussions

4,300 shared bookmarks

4,000 microblog posts

institutional support and integration

confused purposes, soft systems

uneven contributions

•

some issues

conflicting worlds

the monolith

small pieces, loosely joined

interaction complexity

If we could start again…

Athabasca University
RESEARCH CENTRE

Athabasca University
Library & Scholarly Resources

Athabasca University
TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED KNOWLEDGE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

IT HELP DESK

Athabasca University
E-PORTFOLIO

embedding sociality everywhere

Athabasca University
Research Portal

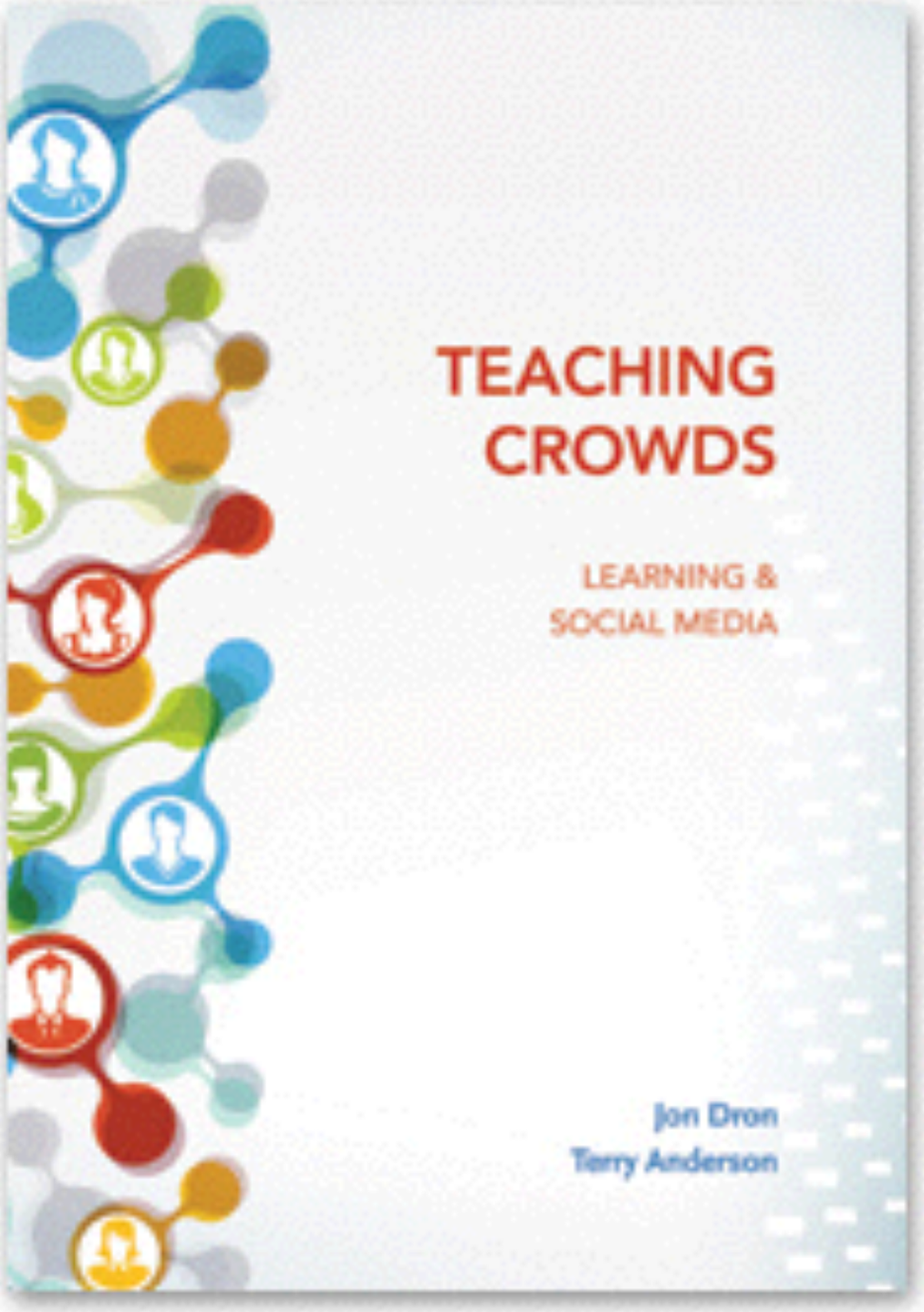
School of
Computing and Information Systems

AUFA
Athabasca University Faculty Association

CENTRE FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION
Anytime, Anywhere

Athabasca University

parts and the whole



http://teachingcrowds.ca

Thank you!

https://landing.athabascau.ca

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@jondron

jondron@gmail.com

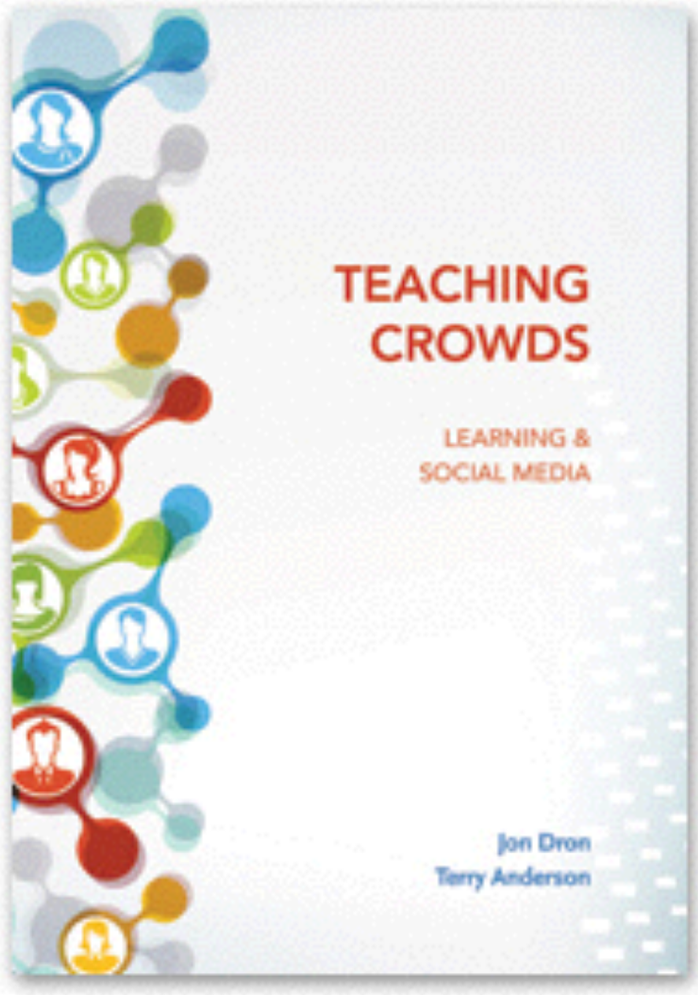
https://landing.athabascau.ca/profile/jond

Teaching Crowds: Learning and Social Media

Jon Dron &
Terry Anderson

AU Press, 2014

(free PDF download,
paper or e-book versions very
reasonably priced)



http://teachingcrowds.ca