Website for Transforming Education through Information Technology

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Review of Website for Transforming Education through Information Technology /

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Site Review By Jeffrey Barlow

Occasionally we choose to review a site rather than a book, thinking each to be very useful tools in understanding the impact of the World Wide Web. This month we introduce Educause.edu. In its own words, “EDUCAUSE is a nonprofit association whose mission is to advance higher education by promoting the intelligent use of information technology.” The site, although generally oriented toward higher education, is also broadly useful because of its focus on higher technology. The tone of its lead publications, though academic in that its authors are usually drawn from colleges and universities, is open and intended for a general audience. For example, most articles use a limited number of notes, and usually the sources are web accessible and do not require immediate access to a research library,

In addition to serving as a non-profit lobby for higher education, the organization is also a link between institutions and the corporations that serve the I. T. industry. More than 250 corporations are registered as partners and this wide corporate support has enabled an extensive program of research, conferences, and publications. The Educause Center for Applied Research, for example, both funds and reports on major issues of concern to institutions. At present more than four hundred reports and additional presentations are available [1].

Educause also publishes a number of regular periodicals, including a monthly review as well as a quarterly. Presentations, Blogs, and Podcasts fill out a broad range of available media [2]. We have chosen to take monthly hard-copy delivery of the Educause Review (free with registration) because we find that we are more likely to read it thoroughly if it lies around on our desk top until we do so, rather than joining the dozens, if not hundreds, of electronic sources that we fully intend to get to regularly, starting any minute.

Our attentions were recently drawn by a particular article, Brian Alexander’s “Apprehending the Future: Emerging Technologies, from Science Fiction to Campus Reality” [3]. It is typical of a certain Educause encyclopedic look at current topics, drawing on a wide variety of materials,
and frequently involving multiple authors. Brian’s article surveys a broad range of means of “apprehending the Future,” from reading science fiction to elaborate operations such as the Delphi Project which regularly has assembled experts since 2002 and consulted them on where higher technology seems to be going. He also discusses prediction markets, role-playing scenarios, and a number of other approaches and applications. While his conclusions are appropriately hedged, (he ends with N. Taleb’s “Black Swan,” which simply holds that history periodically sends us unforeseeable and improbable events which require that we cast all of our assumptions aside [4]) his sources are very rich and his introductions to them make for a wonderful beginning. The article, like much of Educause materials, was thorough, accessible, and enlightening.

Our survey of Educause resources has done little more than skim the surface of a very extensive site. It is, so far as we are aware, entirely free and publically accessible. Anyone interested in learning technologies or education in general should find it quite useful.

Endnotes


[2] Because the site is not completely user friendly, I will post anchors to specific sections which I mention here. The publications can be found at:
http://www.educause.edu/resources/browse/pub

[3] Found at:
http://www.educause.edu/EDUCAUSE+Review/EDUCAUSEReviewMagazineVolume44/
ApprehendingtheFutureEmergingT/171774

http://www.educause.edu/EDUCAUSE+Review/EDUCAUSEReviewMagazineVolume44/
ApprehendingtheFutureEmergingT/171774

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6 THOUGHTS ON “WEBSITE FOR TRANSFORMING EDUCATION THROUGH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY”

tickets

on January 29, 2014 at 5:22 PM said:

Oh my goodness! Awesome article dude! Thank you, However I am having troubles with your RSS.
I don’t know why I can’t subscribe to it. Is there anybody else getting similar RSS issues?

Anyone that knows the answer will you kindly respond?
Thanx!!

tickets
on January 30, 2014 at 3:36 AM said:

Hi there I am so glad I found your website, I really found you by error, while I was looking on Askjeeve for something else, Regardless I am here now and would just like to say many thanks for a marvelous post and a all round interesting blog (I also love the theme/design), I don’t have time to go through it all at the minute but I have bookmarked it and also added in your RSS feeds, so when I have time I will be back to read a lot more, Please do keep up the excellent work.

February 7
on January 30, 2014 at 5:23 PM said:

This text is worth everyone’s attention. Where can I find out more?

on February 4, 2014 at 10:31 AM said:

It’s said that the Strip got its name because it reminded a local police officer of the Sunset Strip in Hollywood, California – his hometown.

It is a spacious club with five different rooms playing five types of music. These are also reasons that a judge may decide to throw out the case.
tickets  
on February 5, 2014 at 3:41 AM said:

Howdy! Do you use Twitter? I'd like to follow you if that would be ok. I'm undoubtedly enjoying your blog and look forward to new posts.

tickets  
on February 5, 2014 at 2:40 PM said:

Hey there! I simply would like to give you a huge thumbs up for the great information you've got right here on this post.

I am returning to your website for more soon.