Emerging Issues, Trends and Opportunities

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Highlights of Progress in North America

- 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act

- 508 Refresh Draft

- Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act - a new compliance framework

- EPub3

- Authoring Tool Accessibility Guidelines 2.0

Four Issues....

Digital Inclusion & Widening "Technology Gap"

- policy and laws depend on assistive technology to fill gap

- price, availability, reliability and diversity of Assistive Technologies deteriorating

- only available in 28% of world

- inexorable move to online services

- inability to keep up with shifts in software architectures and process of creating desktop, Web and mobile applications (mashups, distributed production)

Alignment of Personalization with Fixed Criteria

- accessibility legislation requires simple, testable criteria to be effective

- frequently prescribes a single set of criteria

- personalization is an ideal vehicle for achieving greater individual accessibility - from one-size-fits-all to one-size-fits-one

- personalization approaches and accessibility legislation seen to be at odds

- need to find a way to include personalization as an approach in our legislation

Budgets and Specialized Accessibility Services

- Specialized assistance to individuals with disabilities vulnerable to budget reductions

- Process of qualifying for services becoming more complex and difficult

- Criteria for qualifying becoming tighter, leaving out numerous individuals

- A greater portion of available budgets used to police service and exclude "unqualified" individuals than to deliver service

- Excluded groups advocating for inclusion requiring further administrative processes that further reduce budget to deliver service

- Timelines for qualifying technology to be covered means that it is frequently out of date by the time the individual is provided the technology

Cognitive Access

- absent in many of our Accessible ICT efforts

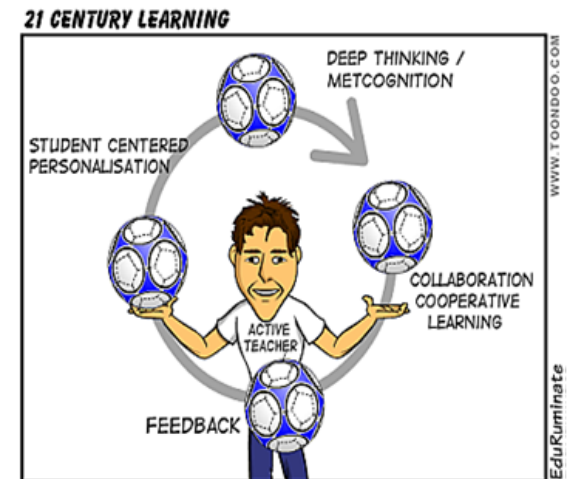- literacy and digital literacy

- rising concern with aging

Four Opportunities

Open Education and Digital Resources

- Support for Open Education and open access curriculum production removes constraints of digital rights management

- System-wide call for personalized learning provides opportunity for integrated accessible education

- Accessibility strategies such as FLOE (floeproject.org) seen as solution for all students (reverse integration or digital curbcut for education)

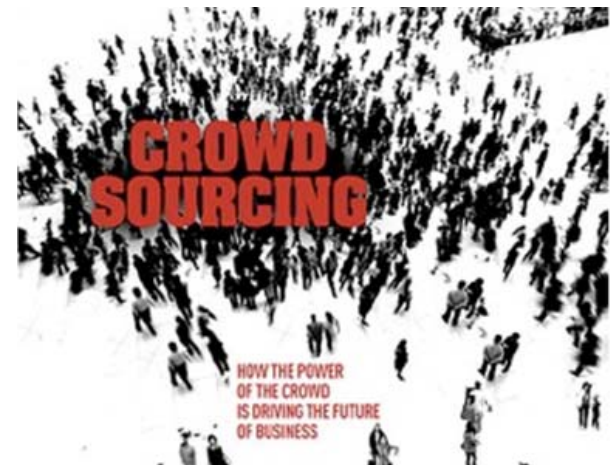- See http://www.openeducationweek.org/category/projects/ (FLOE video)
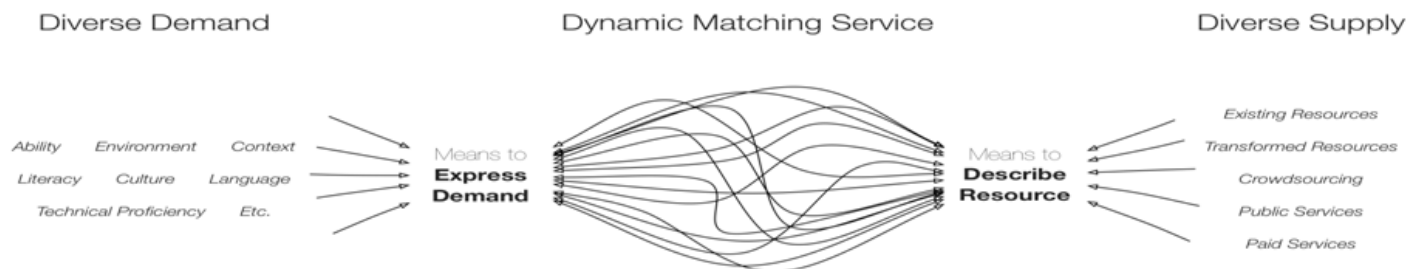
- (small example - same language subtitles and literacy)

Crowdsourcing and Distributed Production

- Emerging systems for pooling and reusing resources

- Assistance on demand

- Addressing technical gaps through crowdsourcing services

Cloud Technologies

- Global networks to share resources and knowledge about accessibility

- Dynamic aggregated research data on meeting unmet needs

- Consolidated, context-specific delivery of accessible interfaces and services (e.g., Cloud4All, Global Public Inclusive Infrastructure)

- Support of "pull" markets for diversity of needs

Potential disruption by emergence of 3D printing

- On-demand manufacturing provides opportunity for personalized accessible design of products - end of mass production?

- Especially useful for issues of dexterity, specialized casing, button and control form factors, keyguards, etc.

Questions, suggestions...