



**NRC-CNRC**

*Institute for  
Information  
Technology*

# Open Learning and the Metauniversity

**Stephen Downes**

**National Research Council Canada**

**November 14, 2005**



National Research  
Council Canada

Conseil national  
de recherches Canada

**Canada**

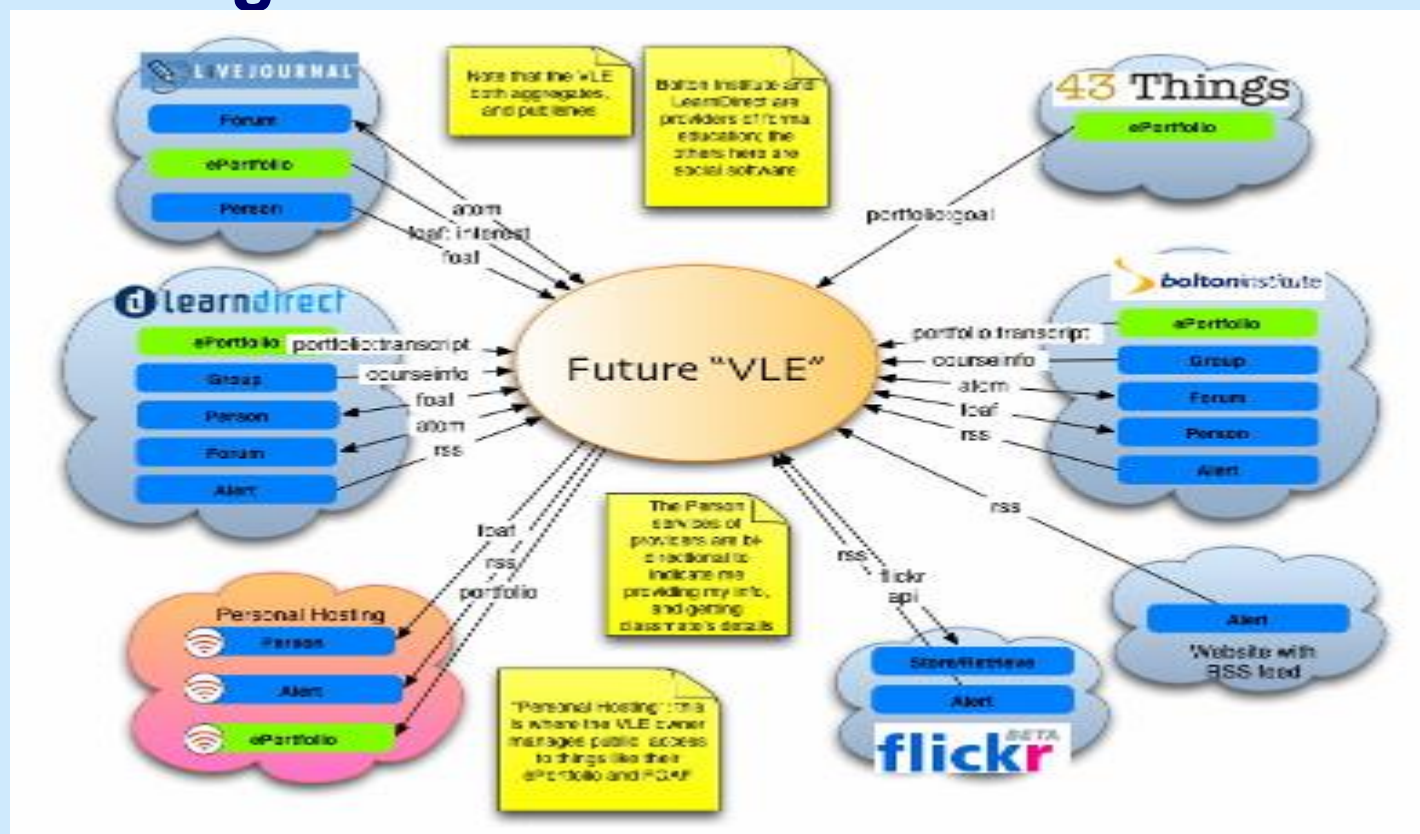
## What we need...

- ***“We need a system that is optimized toward slotting in new pieces as they become available, not as an after-thought or an add-on, but as a fundamental characteristic of the system.”***
    - *Michael Feldstein, August 7, 2005*
- [http://mfeldstein.com/index.php/the\\_long\\_tail\\_of\\_learning\\_applications/](http://mfeldstein.com/index.php/the_long_tail_of_learning_applications/)

## Learning as a network phenomenon...

- **Web of user-generated content (eg. Wikipedia)...**
- **Social networks and communities (entails a genuinely portable (and *owned*) identity**
- **Networks of interactions (aggregate, remix, repurpose, feed forward) – syndication**
- **The *personal* learning centre**

# E-Learning 2.0...



## Properties of successful networks...

- **Charles Vest – three key attributes:**

- **Diversity (many objectives)**

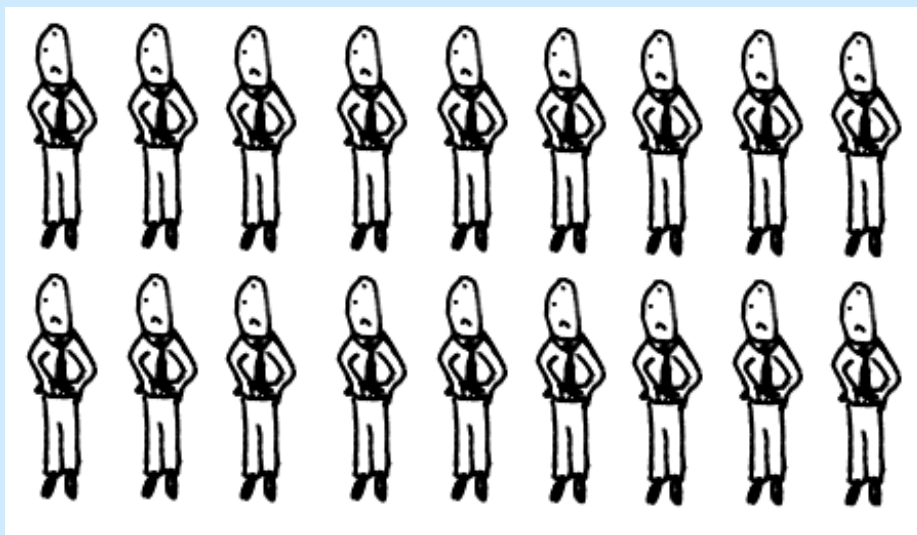
- **Interwoven (many activities)**

- **Open (many minds)**

- *Charles M. Vest, SAC, August 8, 2005*

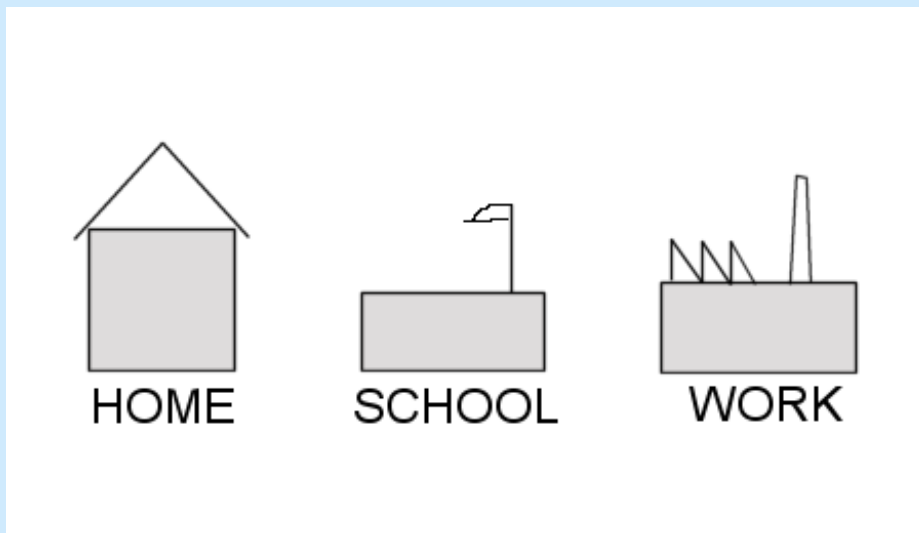
<http://jade.mcli.dist.maricopa.edu/cdb/2005/08/08/opencourseware-sac2005>

## Diversity...



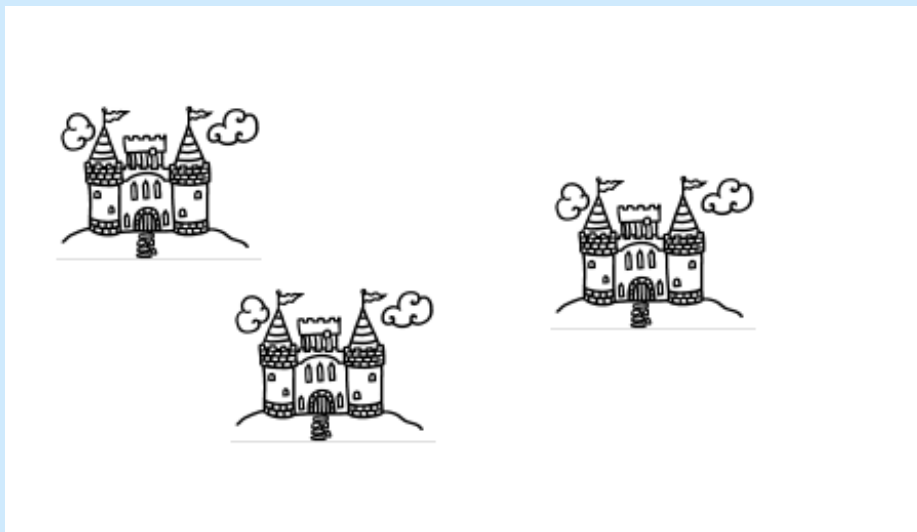
**The idea of making everything the same –  
*anything* the same – is fundamentally misguided**

## Interwoven...



**The idea that our different activities are distinct is fundamentally misguided**

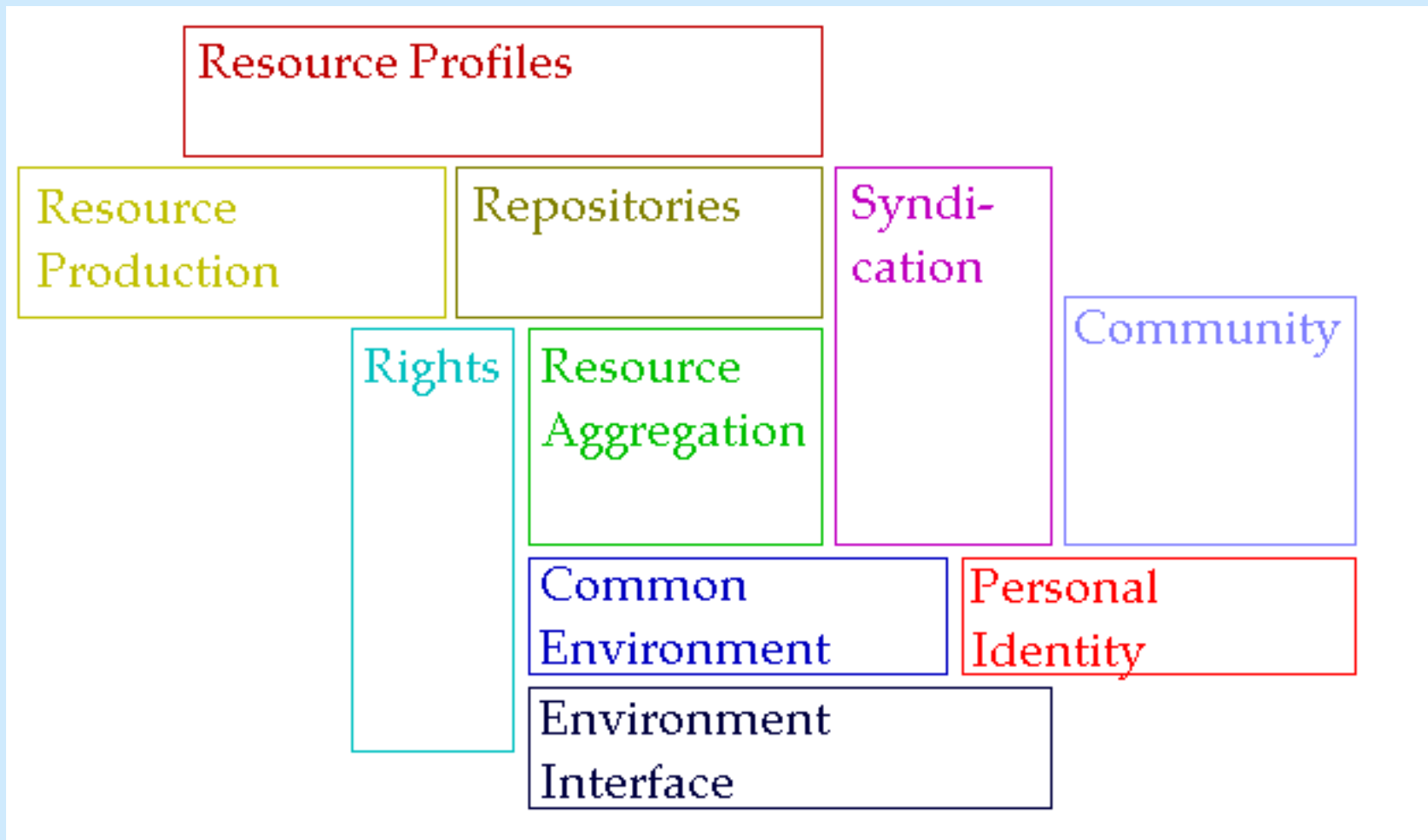
**Open...**



**The idea that we can store knowledge in *closed repositories* is fundamentally misguided**

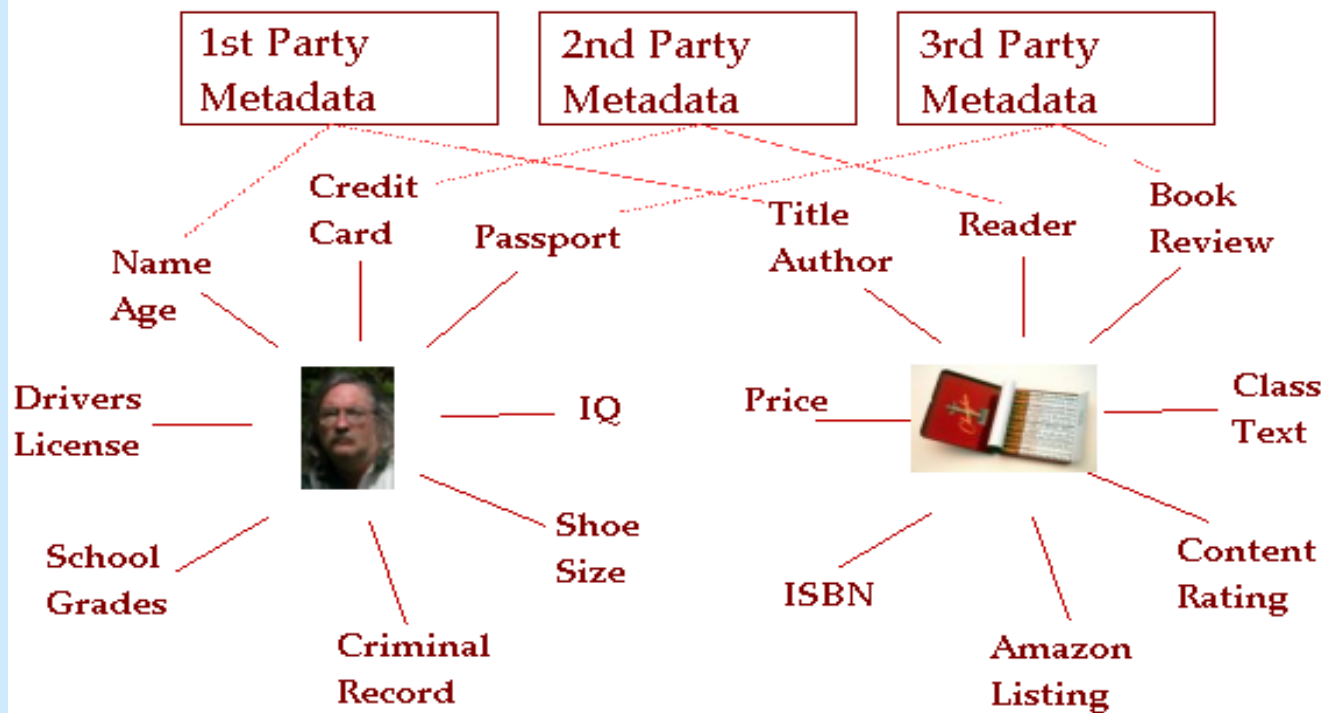


# The Metaversity



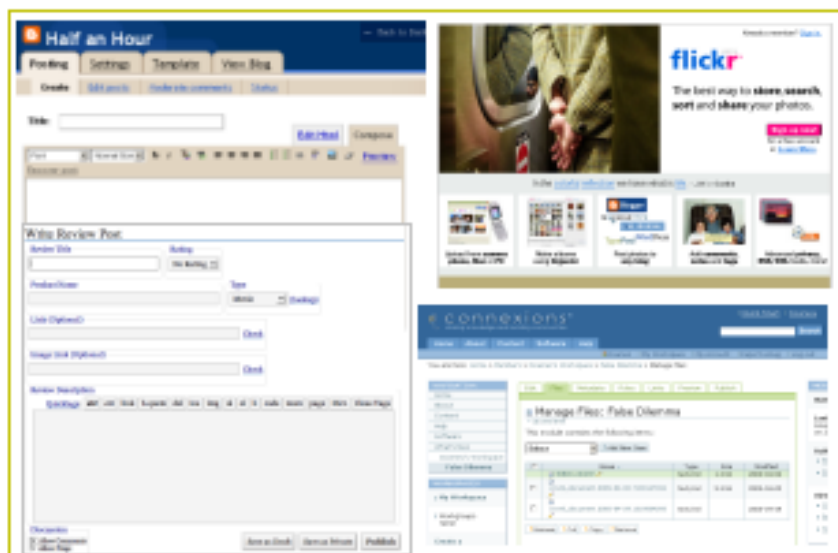
# Resource Profiles

## Resource Profiles



# Resource Production

## Resource Production



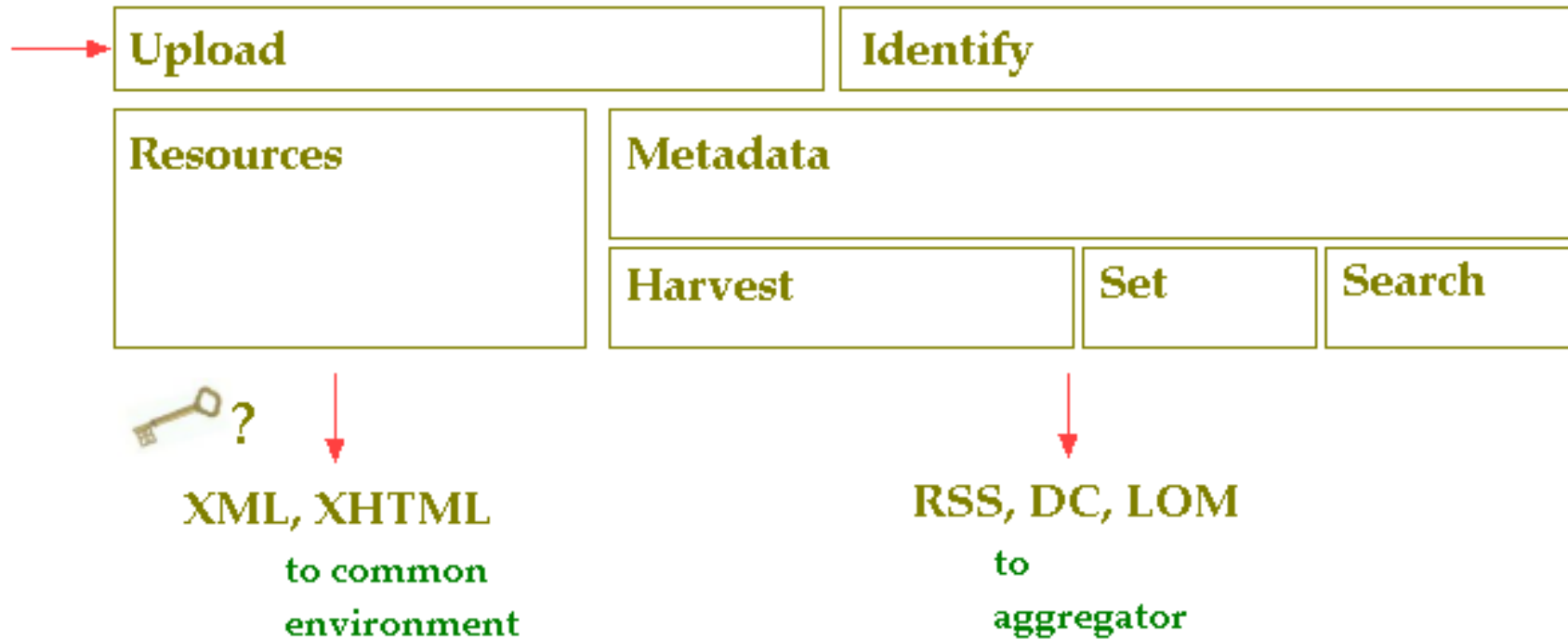
1st Party Metadata  
(RSS, DC, LOM)

Resource  
(XML, XHTML)

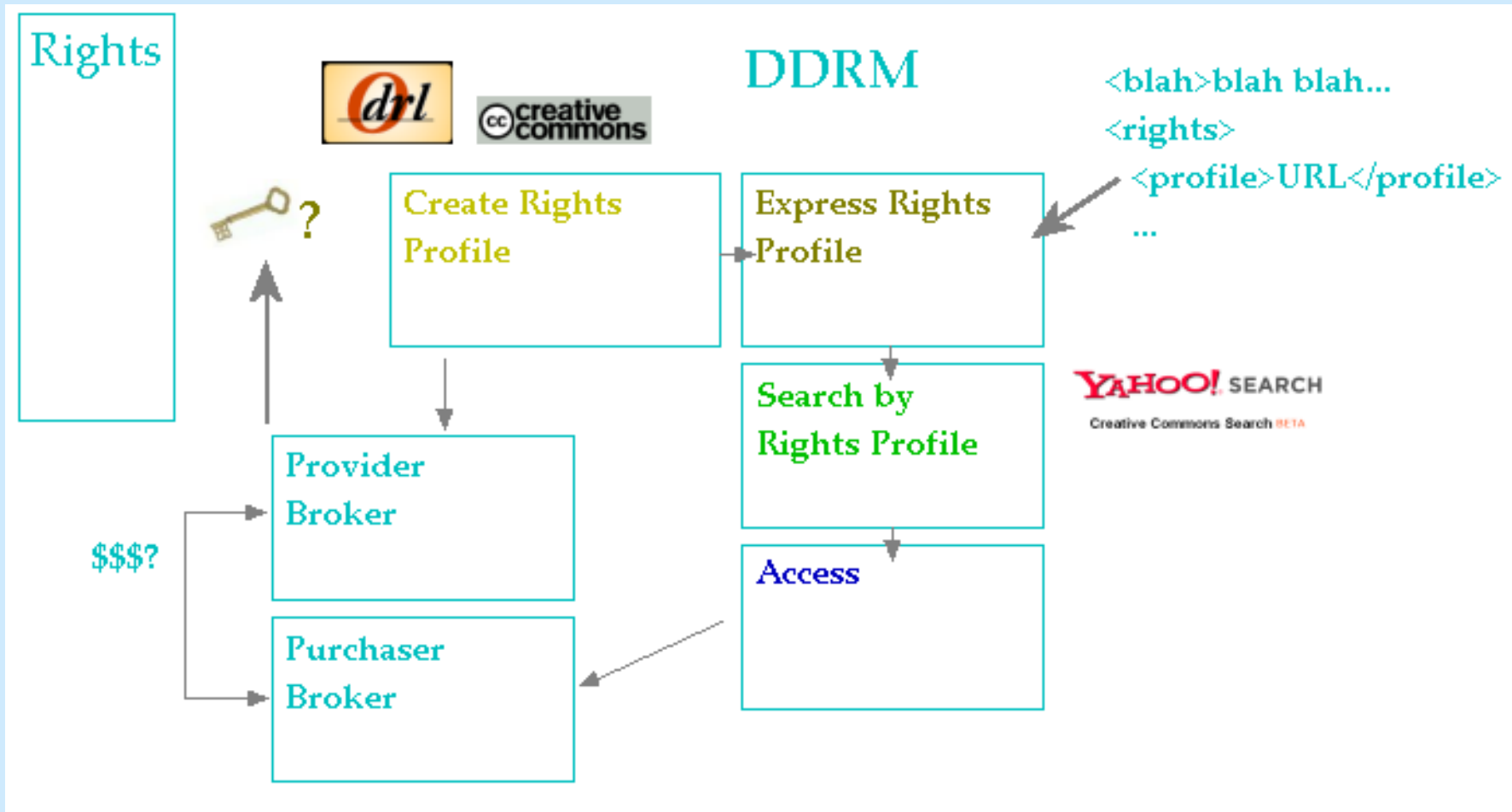
# Repositories

## Repositories

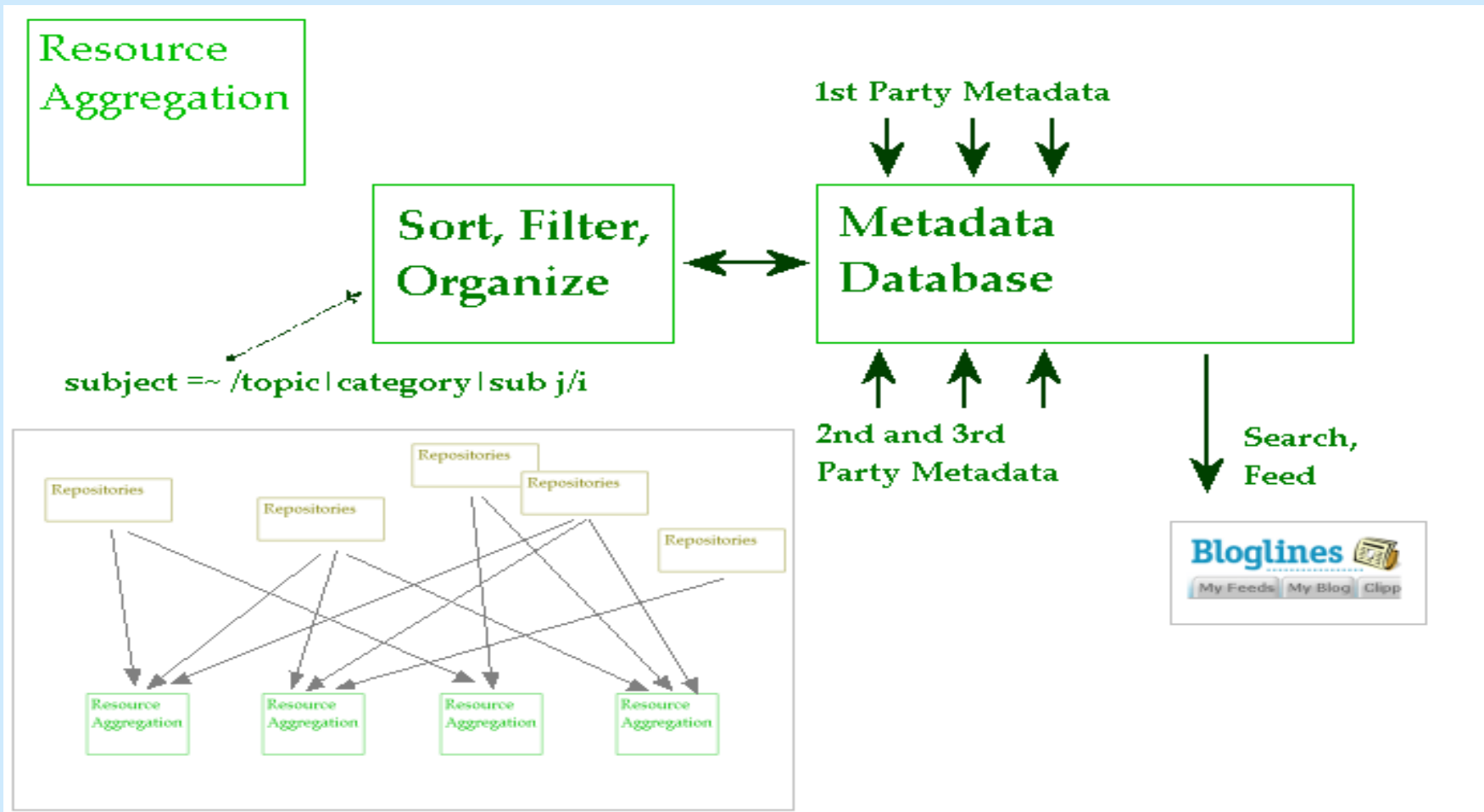
OAI, DSpace, CORDRA



# Rights



# Resource Aggregation



# Common Environment

Common Environment

Resource Aggregation

Results

View

Ideas and thoughts from an EdTech

Monday, November 15, 2010

Meet my Friends in my aggregator

I'll be doing 3 sessions in the next week or so. These are introductory sessions to 3 different audiences. It is the typical Cycle of learn, mix, imagine, search, build, etc. but someone is taking the personal touch and doesn't get to the innovation aspect and conversation that veteran bloggers enjoy.

So this going to be the analogy of a party to introduce folks to those people I've met and read over the past year. It's group people in the field they include in [my Location Based](#), let's see how it works.

Meet me

The Great Shamrock from Maple Ave, Saskatchewan, Canada is a educational technologist. I am constantly exploring what helps teachers and students learn. The discovering this to be a way to share and learn.

Drag and Drop

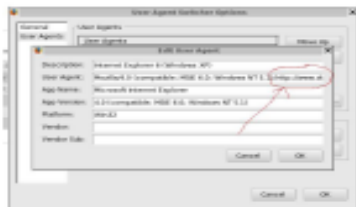
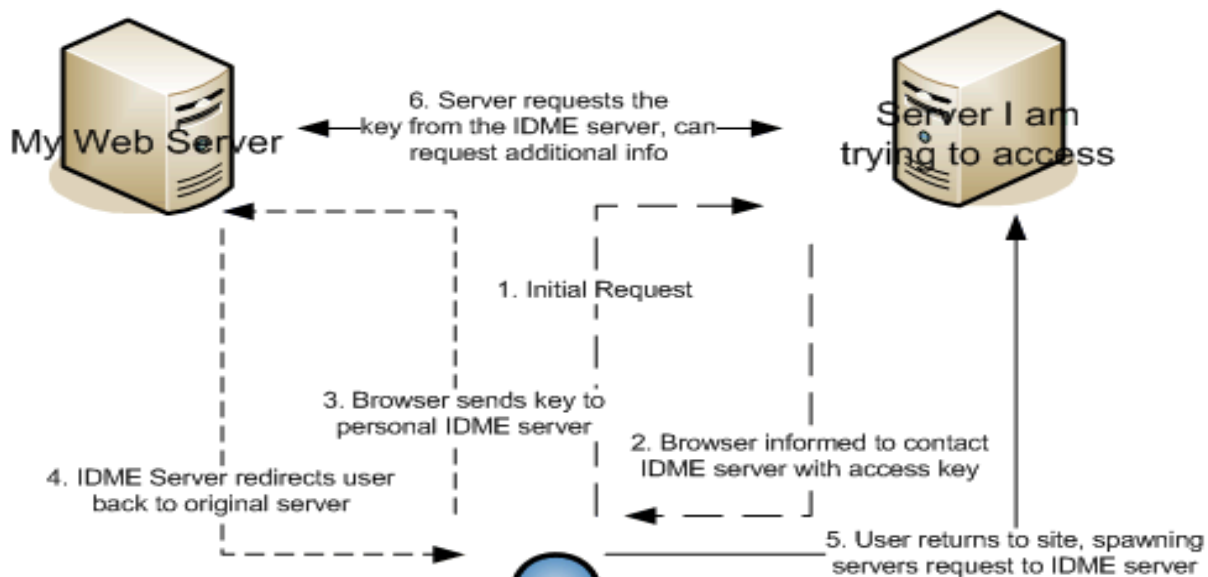
Syndication

Find:

Start Search

# Personal Identity

## Personal Identity



**Result:** user self-identified to new server without having to create new account or login

mIDm

OpenID

sxip  
IDENTITY



# Environment Interface

Environment  
Interface

Common  
Environment

XSLT +



Workflow... games... simulations...  
appliances... courses...

# Syndication

Syndi-  
cation

evaluation, usage, comment, tagging

Resource  
Aggregation



RSS, Atom, CNXML, XML...

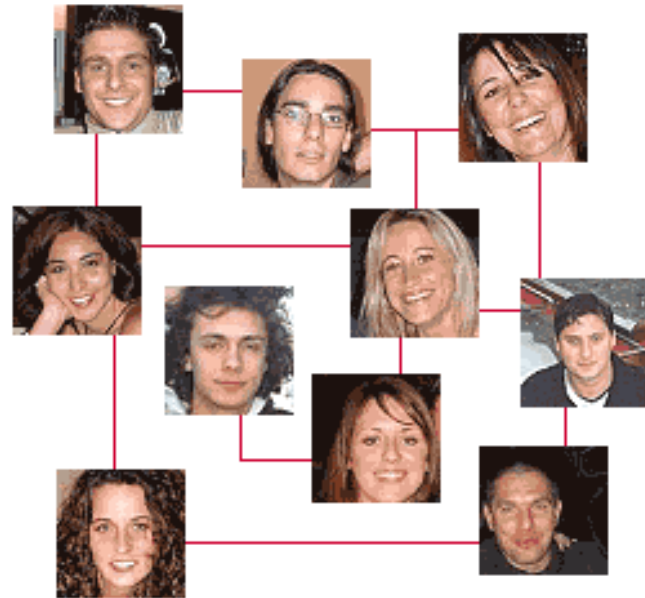
Repositories

# Community

Community

Syndi-  
cation

Personal  
Identity



## Takeaway...

- **Charles Vest talked about a ‘meta-university’**
- ***This* (if I may be so audacious) is the information architecture of the meta-university**
- **The key is not large, integrated systems, but rather, small, flexible bits that can be connected**
- **This applies to metadata too**

**NRC CNRC**

*Institute for  
Information  
Technology*

<http://www.downes.ca>

Science  
— at work for —  
Canada



National Research  
Council Canada

Conseil national  
de recherches Canada

Canada