




# Reflections from the 2007 AECT Convention

Stephen Downes

October 27, 2007

<http://www.downes.ca>

# The Opening Keynote



The screenshot shows a Firefox browser window with the address bar displaying <http://www.downes.ca/presentation/170>. The page title is "A Kaleidoscope of Futures: Reflections on the Reality of Virtual Learning ~ Stephen's Web ~ by Stephen Downes". The page content includes a navigation menu with links for [START SEARCH], [NEWS], [DISCUSS], [SEARCH], [ABOUT], [ARCHIVES], and [OPTIONS]. The main heading is "A Kaleidoscope of Futures: Reflections on the Reality of Virtual Learning". Below this, the section "Presentation" is dated "October 25, 2007" and notes it was "Delivered to AECT Annual International Convention, Anaheim, California." A video player shows a man speaking at a podium. The video player controls include a play button, a progress bar, and a volume icon. Below the video player, the text "A Kaleidoscope of Futures: Reflections on the Reality of Virtual Learning" is displayed. The browser's status bar at the bottom shows the search engine "technorati" and the URL "ig data from www.slideshare.net...".


Stephen's Web

[START SEARCH](#) [\[NEWS\]](#) [\[DISCUSS\]](#) [\[SEARCH\]](#) [\[ABOUT\]](#) [\[ARCHIVES\]](#) [\[OPTIONS\]](#)

*A Kaleidoscope of Futures: Reflections on the Reality of Virtual Learning*

**Presentation**

October 25, 2007  
Delivered to AECT Annual International Convention, Anaheim, California.



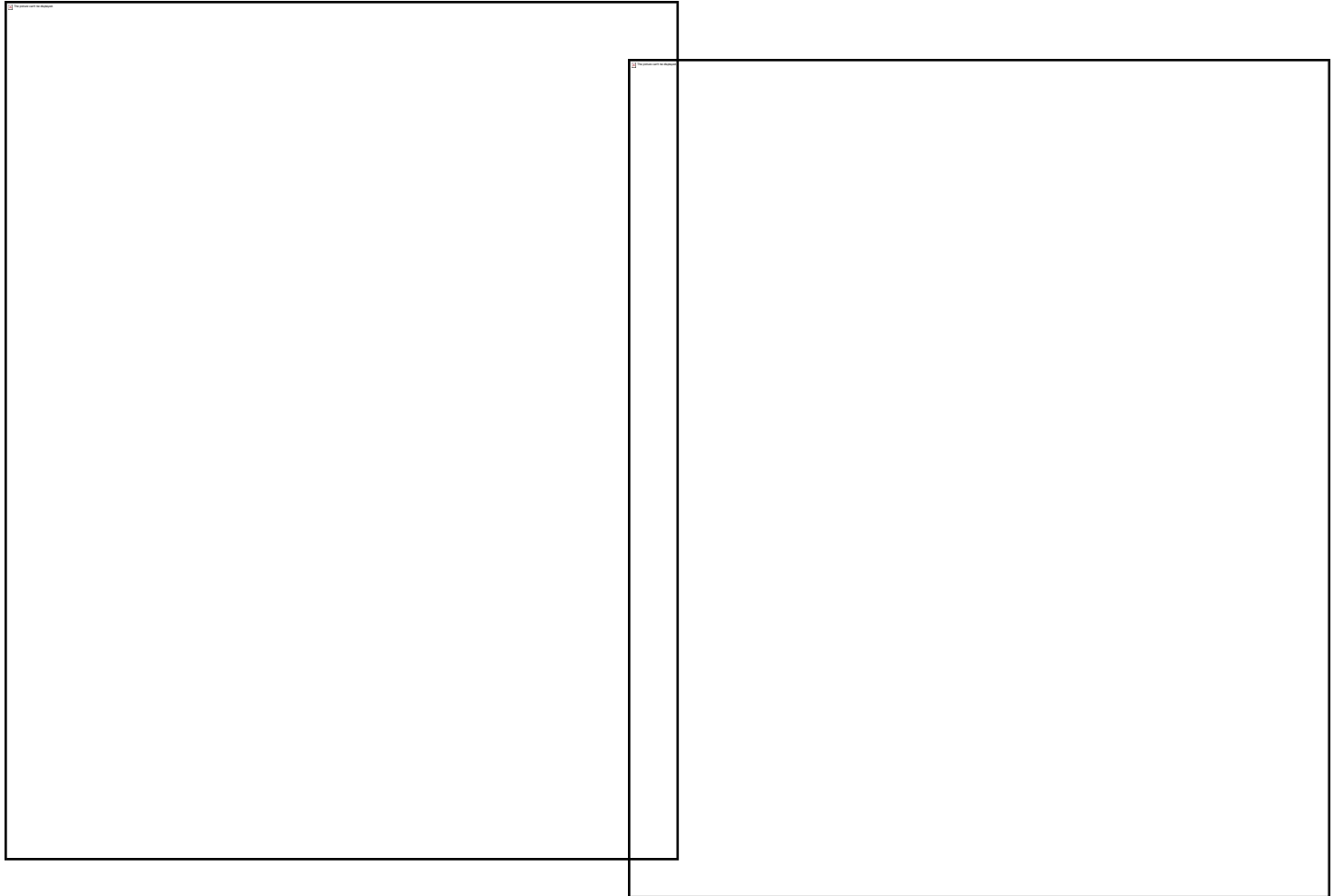
A Kaleidoscope of Futures:  
Reflections on the Reality of Virtual Learning

<http://www.downes.ca/presentation/170>

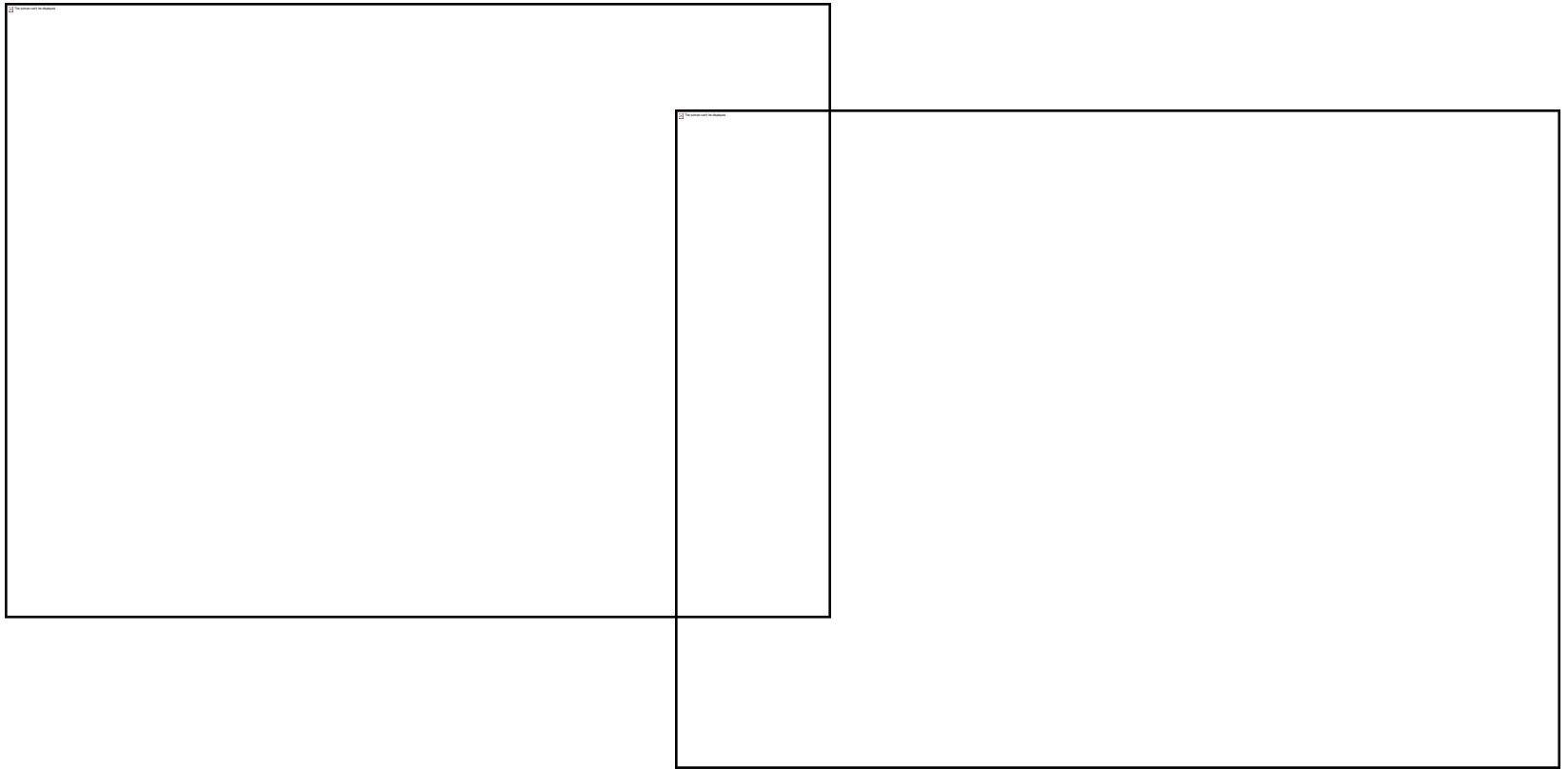
# The Traditional Class



# The Academic Paper



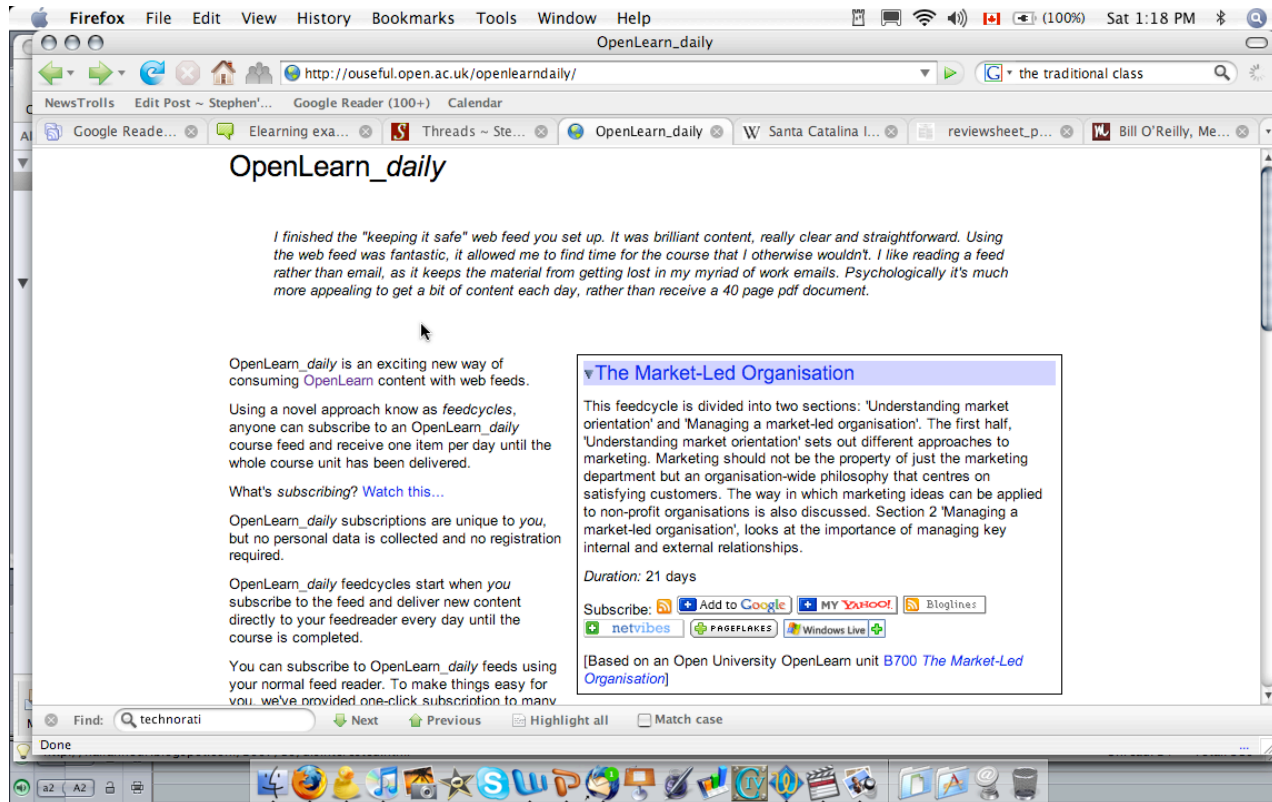
# Looking at the New



[http://blog.cathy-moore.com/?page\\_id=109](http://blog.cathy-moore.com/?page_id=109)



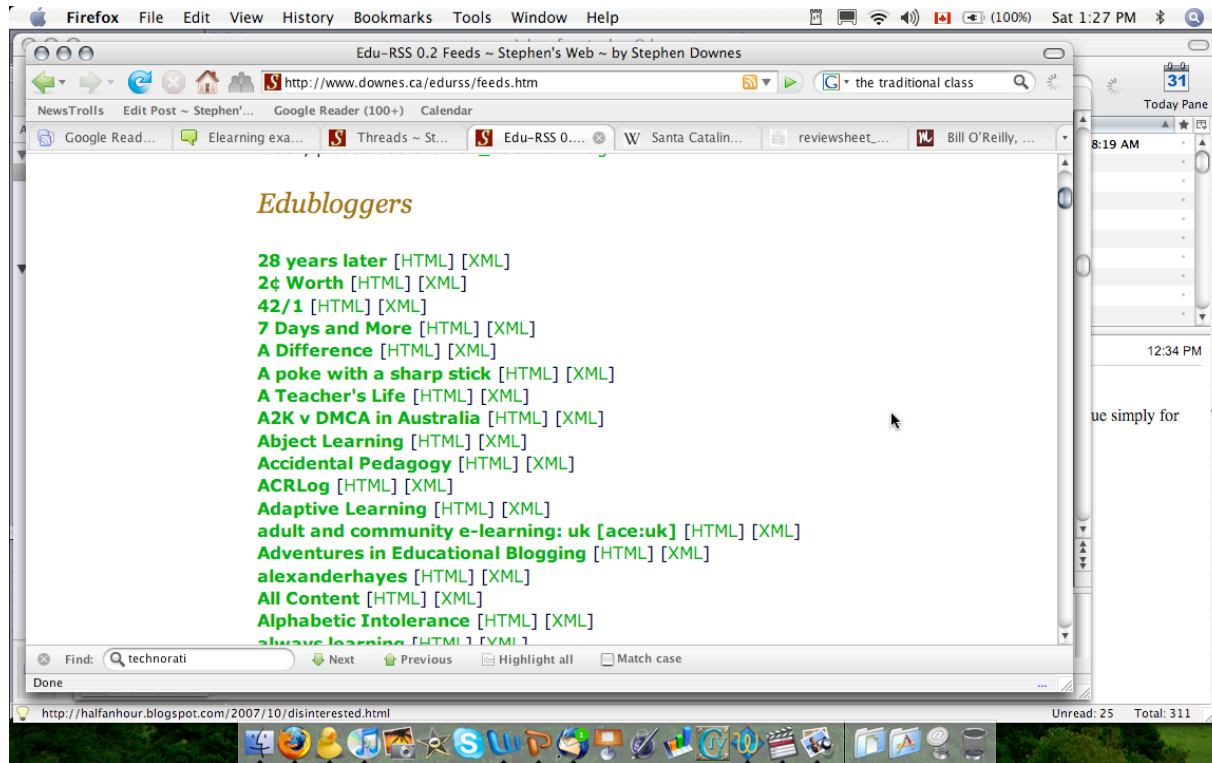
# OpenLearnDaily



<http://ouseful.open.ac.uk/openlearndaily/>

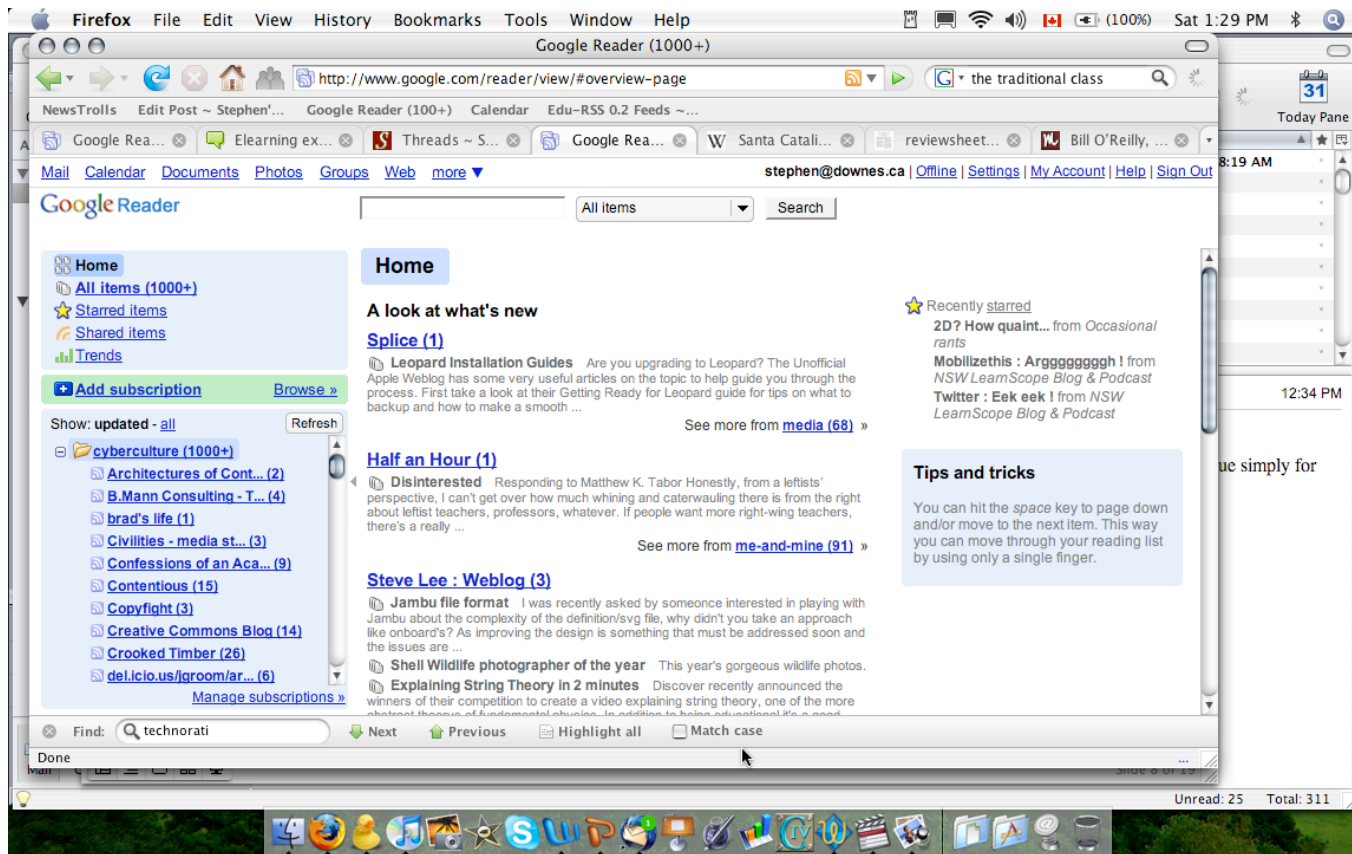
<http://openlearnigg.corank.com/>

# The Other Academic Press



<http://www.downes.ca/edurss/feeds.htm>

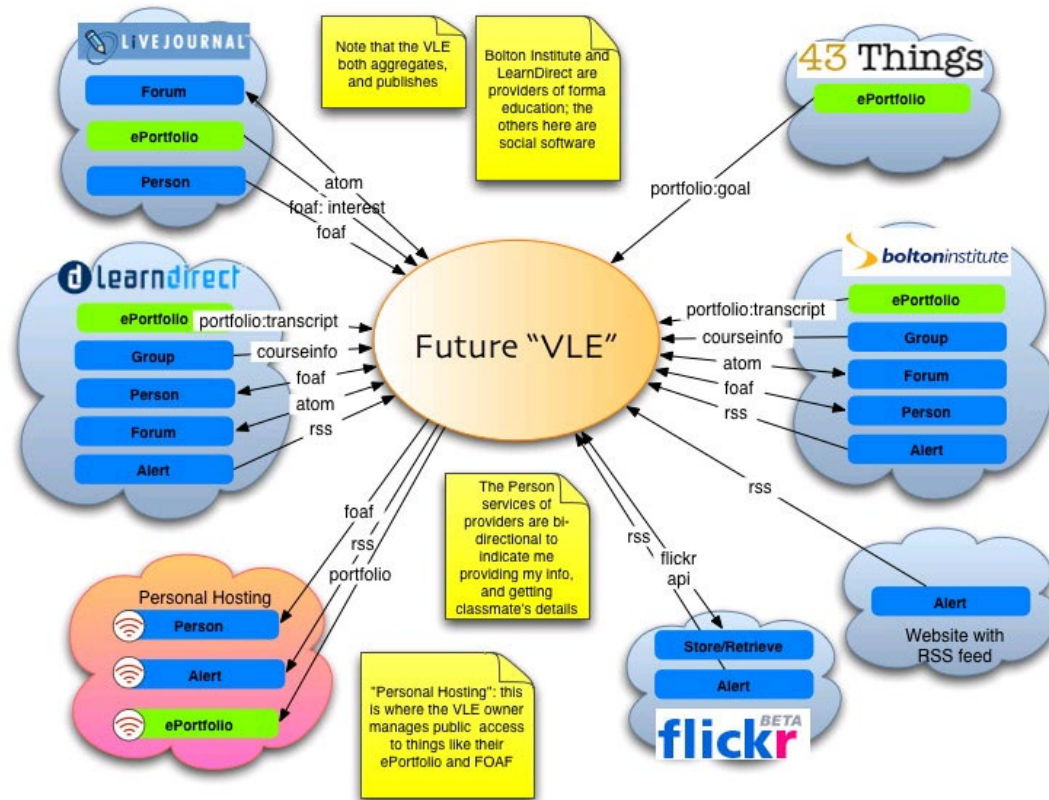
# Keeping Up



<http://www.google.com/reader/view>



# The Personal Learning Environment



<http://www.cetis.ac.uk/members/ple>

# My Glu

## MyGlu

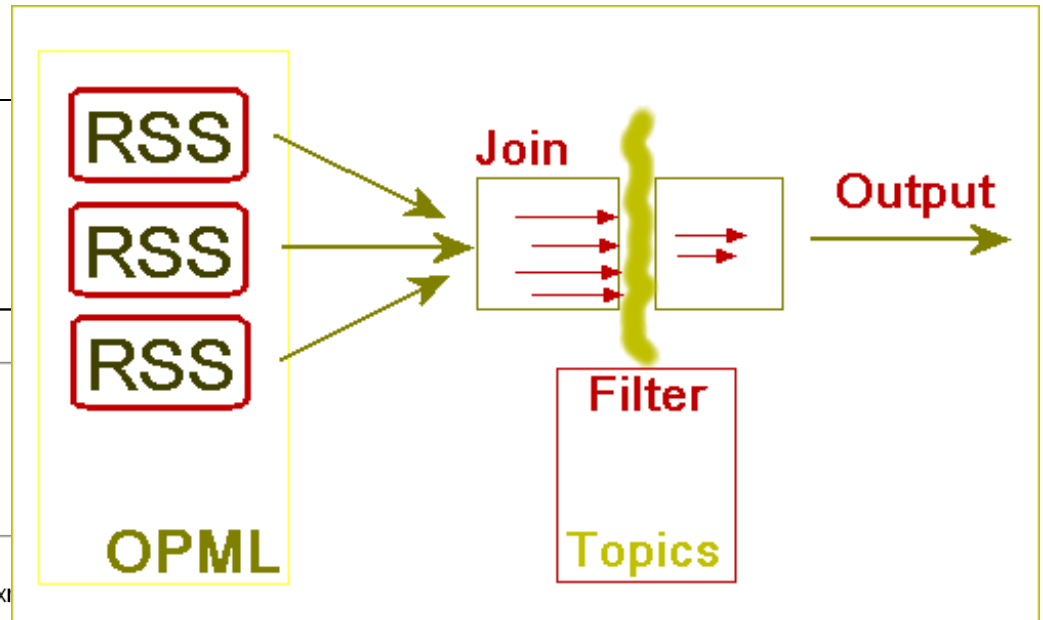
By Stephen Downes

[About](#)

Force: 1

Harvesting <http://del.icio.us/rss/Downes>  
Feedfile is: myglu/feedcache/del.icio.us\_rss\_Downes  
No content. Harvesting from source.  
URL: <http://del.icio.us/rss/Downes>  
Parsing Feed=HASH(0x9f0f10c)

Harvesting <http://www.downes.ca/news/OLDaily.xml>  
Feedfile is: myglu/feedcache/www.downes.ca\_news\_OLDaily.x  
No content. Harvesting from source.  
URL: <http://www.downes.ca/news/OLDaily.xml>  
Parsing Feed=HASH(0x9f0ef8c)



<http://www.downes.ca/myglu.htm>

# RSS Writr

Stephen's Web  Start Search  
[Change Theme]

[OLDaily] [Archives] [Threads] [Best Of] [Search] [Options]

### *Welcome to RSS Writr*

Select a content source from the list (see the panel at the lower right hand side of the page).

When you see an item that interests you, drag it into the editing area (at right). You can drag multiple items into the editor.

When you have finished editing, save your new post to your blog.

Title:

**B** **U** *I* Shift+Enter for single line spacing

Hello

### *Content Sources*

Select an Entry

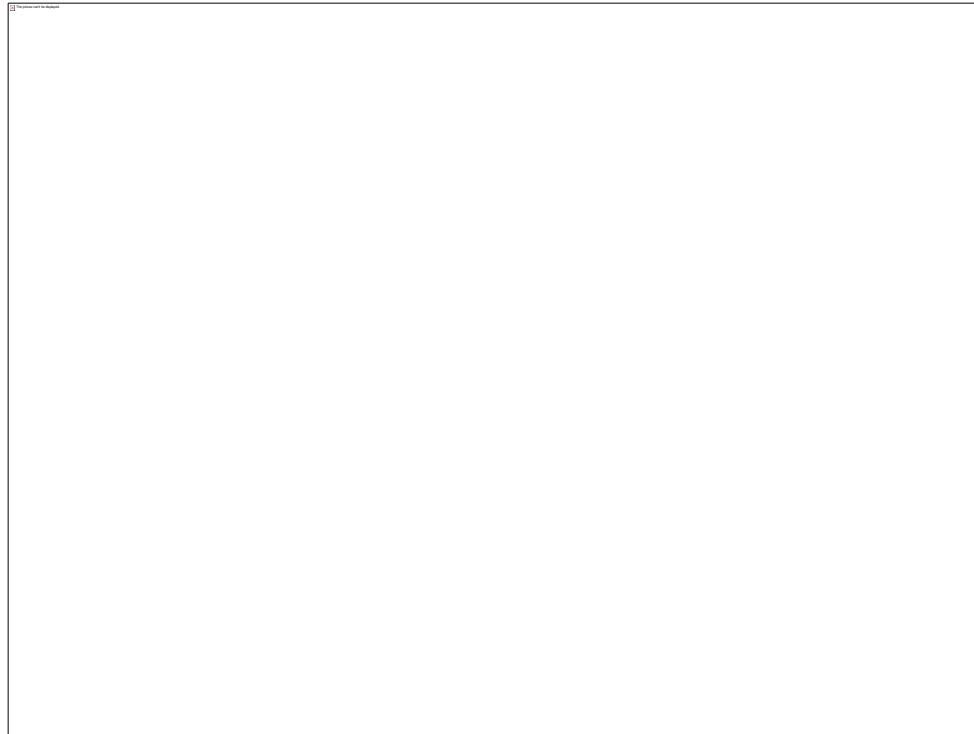
<http://www.downes.ca/editor/writr.htm>

# Foundations...?



Are there some things that are *known* in distance education and online learning?

# Art or Science?



Is this a science? What constitutes evidence? What constitutes reasoning in our discipline?

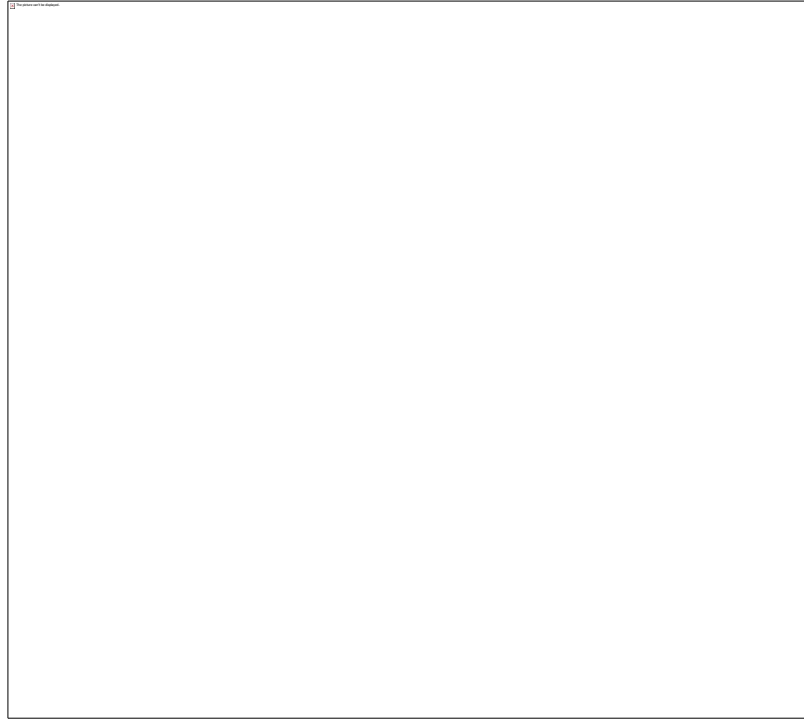
# Is there a Canon?



Is there 'must read' and 'must cite' literature in our discipline? What purpose does it serve?



# What is a Good Paper?



Is this an example of a good paper? Are there some things a good paper must have? Must it be a paper?

# What is a Good Learning Resource?

What do we call a 'good' learning resource? How do we know?

# Does Our Discipline Transform?



How do we progress in our discipline? How do we recognize progress? What form does it take?

# Who Learns?



Who are our students? What makes a student - ability to pay? Need to learn?

# Zombies in Plain English



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVnfyradCPY>