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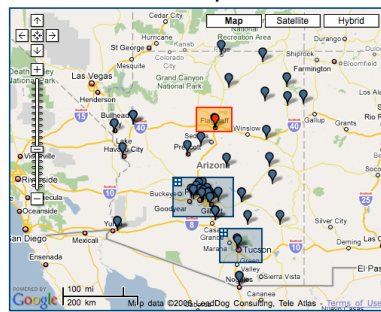
If you build it, *will* they come?
Using Blackboard Vista to develop an e-
Learning Commons.

John J. Doherty
E-Learning Center
Northern Arizona University

Bb World, July 16, 2008
<http://www2.nau.edu/jjd23/eCommons/>

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Northern Arizona University's Locations



2


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Today's Agenda

- Design
- Demonstration
- Promotion
- The Future

3




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Design

- Early -- ID 101
 - Agreement on purpose?



4



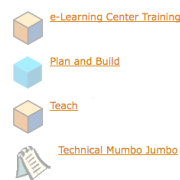
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Beginnings of the Commons idea

Built on the ID 101 model

"We had a solution in search of a problem"



5




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"Without a functioning commons, it is hard for pedagogical knowledge to circulate, deepen through debate and critique, and inform the kinds of innovation so important in higher education today."

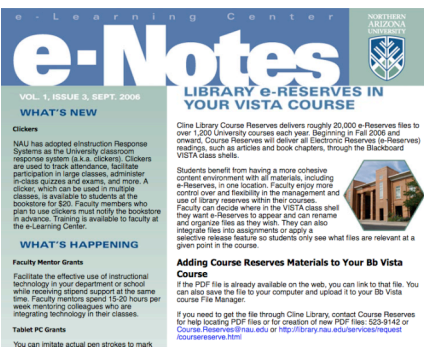
(Huber & Hutchings, 2005, p. 5)

6




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7



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What's in it for me?

- Buying versus selling

"Thinking about teaching begins where all intellectual inquiry begins, with questions about what is going on and how to explain, support, and replicate answers that satisfy us."

(Bender & Gray, 1999, p.)

8




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Spring 2008 Pilot

- Partnerships:
 - Faculty Development Program
 - Library
 - Summer Reading
- Assumptions:
 - Opt in (not opt out as before)
 - Anonymity available
 - Faculty moderated (not e-Learning)
 - Modular

9




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Recommendations


1. Establish more and better occasions to talk about learning
2. Students need to be a part of the discussions about learning
3. Recognize teaching as substantive, intellectual work
4. New genres and forms to document the work of teaching and learning
5. Build and maintain the infrastructure needed to make pedagogical work of high quality available and accessible to all

(Huber & Hutchings, 2005, pp. 118-124)

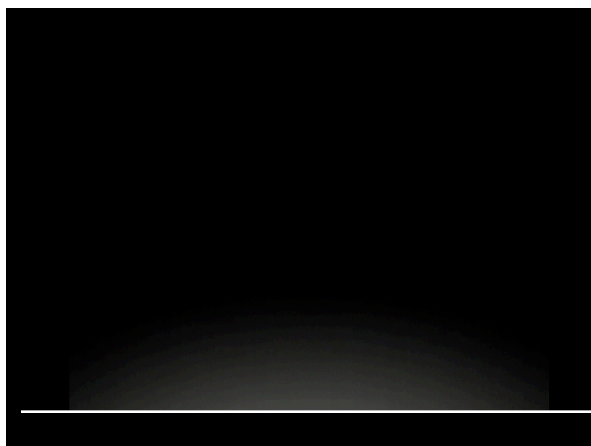
10




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11






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Spring 2008 Pilot

- By May 1, 2008:
 - 52 faculty enrolled representing 5 of 6 colleges and 13 academic units
- Did they come?
 - 66% had not accessed it since being enrolled

13



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Looking A Wee Bit Ahead

- Summer Reading Program




NAU Summer Reading 2008 selection

 **A Long Way Gone**
A discussion forum for the 2008 text

 **Macmillan Teacher's Guide**

 **Resources**
Resources to support the reading of and use of A Long Way Gone

 **Podcasts**
NAU will be piloting our version of iTunes U in Fall 2008. For more information go to itunes.nau.edu


 **Study Guide for A Long Way Gone**

Visit the [NAU Summer Reading Program](#) online for more information, including how to volunteer to lead a discussion group on the book.

This learning commons area is maintained by the NAU [e-Learning Center](#).

For more information on how your colleagues or peers can join the Commons, please contact [John DeBelle](#).

14



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And further: Wither Bb Vista?


Pros

- We know it
- Our faculty are familiar with it ...
- ... and are using it
- It's secure

Cons

- Moderation means Designer privilege
- What do we do with non-affiliates?
- Vista is a CMS, not a Commons per se -- pushing the envelope of the system

15




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A new agenda

- Answering the question:
 “What’s in it for me?”
 OR
 “How will this help me?”
- Leveraging the emerging scholarship of teaching at our campus
 Promoting e-Learning

16




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And ...

Developing the skills of our students, faculty, and staff in using technology to enhance teaching and learning

17




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Some Lessons

- Have a clearly defined (and focused) raison d'être
- Look to the content
- Opt in (ie. recruit) rather than opt-out
- Promote, promote, promote
- Seek out partners
- Be prepared for little initial pick up

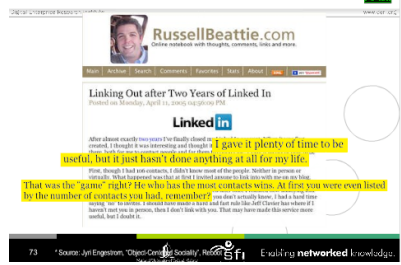
18



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Many social networking services are boring...



19



Other ways to deliver?

"I think we could have both semantic web technology supporting online communities, but at the same time also online communities can support semantic web data by being the sources of people voluntarily connecting things together."

Sir Tim Berners-Lee, 2005

<http://esw.w3.org/topic/lswcPodcast>