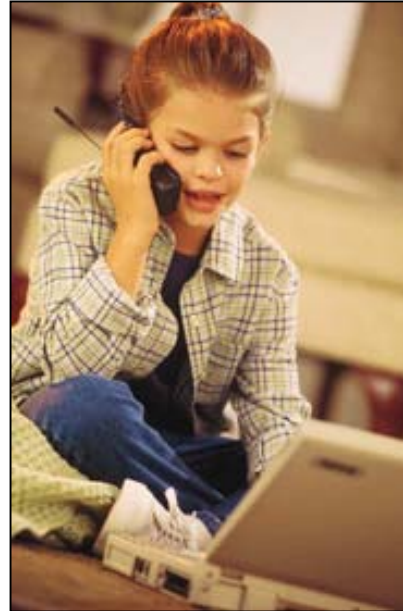


opportunities for dissemination and acquisition of knowledge in the mobile age



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Note: The views expressed in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ITU or its membership. Lara Srivastava can be contacted at lara.srivastava@itu.int

this, the mobile age?

- access to information and communication is no longer fixed (due to the Web, email, PDAs & mobile phones...)
- many people prefer to use their mobile phone (even when a fixed line is available)
- worldwide phenomenon of more mobile than fixed (since 2002)
- in general, like the device, people themselves are much more 'mobile', in an increasingly globalized economy and society



some characteristics of knowledge acquisition (any age)

- acquisition of information is an important, but only first step in cognitive process
- importance of context
- diversity & “indivisibility” of information and knowledge
- knowledge begets knowledge
- “personalization” of acquisition
(i.e.cognitive path dependencies)



ict opportunities for enhanced knowledge dissemination

- increase in the collective fund of information, through global networks like the Internet, and its increasing portability
- accumulation of a more diverse fund of information and thus of knowledge
- benefits of an increasingly fluid and multi-dimensional educational space *(Roland Barthes)*



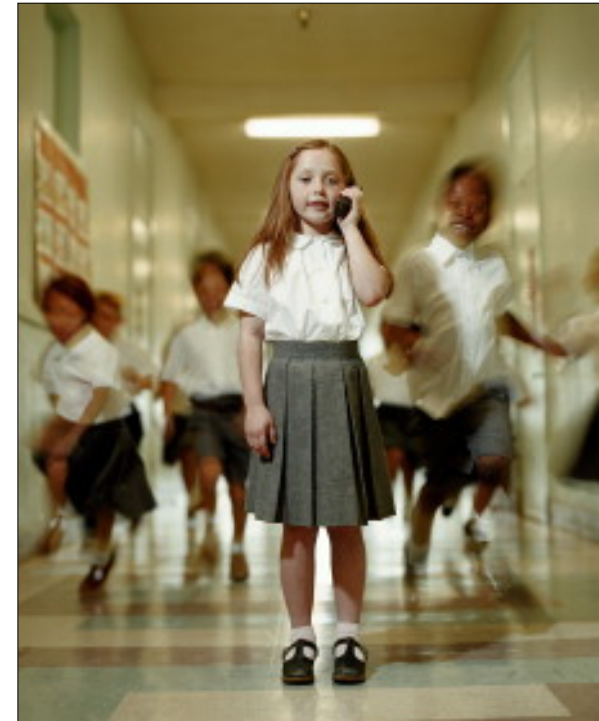
ict opportunities for enhanced knowledge acquisition

- opportunities for personalization and customization
- time and location-independent, flexibility
- ability to enhance/accelerate acquisition through use of pictorial representation
 - video phone, MMS, symbols (e.g. emoticons)
 - tactile/visual - sensory learning
- peer-to-peer learning
(*Geoffrey Hodgson*)



elements of a “faustian bargain” in the context of technological change?

- potentially more unstructured information
 - quantity, bottlenecks
 - black hole of media
(*Jean Baudrillard*)
- effect on active learning, contextual learning
 - tacit knowledge (*Polanyi*)
- power of imagination
- role of serendipity



The ambiguous nature of knowledge-disseminating institutions

- can greatly enhance the learning process
- but...equally can limit or “de-contextualize” knowledge dissemination and acquisition
- relationship between commercial and public interests

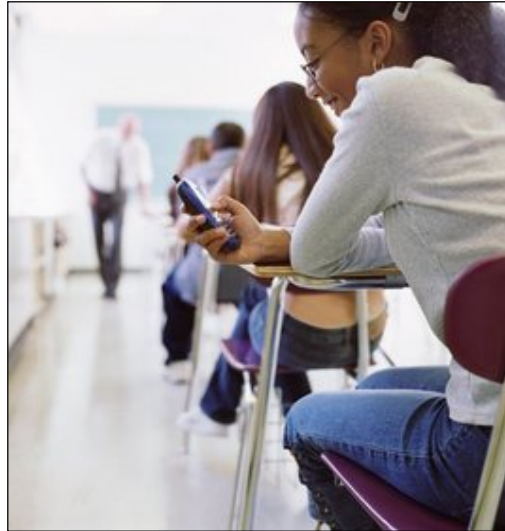


Wielding the power of the mobile age => shifting the “faustian bargain” in our favour

- identifying those traditional features of learning potentially hampered by the mobile age
- raising awareness and exploiting the positive effects and enhancements to learning created by the mobile age
- de-monopolizing information dissemination and disseminator



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