opportunities for dissemination and acquisition of knowledge in the mobile age

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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
thanks

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