Curation for systemization of authentic content for autonomous learning

Phil Hubbard

Stanford University

EUROCALL Conference

Gothenburg, Sweden: August 23, 2012

Autonomous learning with authentic content -- systemized and curated

Phil Hubbard

Stanford University

EUROCALL Conference

Gothenburg, Sweden: August 23, 2012

Outline: Convergence

- Autonomous learning

- Authentic content

- Systemization

- Curation

- Putting it all together

- Example

- Moving forward

Authentic Content

- Authenticity movement in SLA and FLT
- Explosion of free, authentic content online
- Accessibility of meaning technologies (online dictionaries (defined in L1 & L2), machine translation (<u>Google translate</u>), media speed controls, captions/subtitles, transcripts…)

Autonomous learning

- Philosophical basis (learner independence, responsibility…)
- Pragmatic basis (flexibility; choice of content, task, timing, and path; cost…)
- Learning basis (individualization, motivation, control…)
- Technology affordances and constraints (Reinders & Hubbard, in press)

Authentic-Autonomous

Authentic-**Au**tonomous

The **Gold** Standard for Language Learning

Systemization

- Language learning is chaotic but driven *in part* by comprehensible input, rapid processing (automaticity), memory, discourse construction…

- New learning predictably builds on previously internalized knowledge/skill: Krashen (i+1), Vygotsky (ZPD), cognitive resource limitation theory…

Systemization

- Decoo (2010): efficient learning is aided by systemization of language content found in well-designed curricula.

- Ideally, content supports curriculum through a 1-1 mapping of "didactemes" to materials (especially vocabulary)

- Systemization is a challenge for autonomy: need for content collections organized specifically for language learning

Curation

- Rosenbaum (2011). *Curation Nation*
- Curation is the future of online content
- Curation: collection and organization of material with *value added* by an expert: traditionally museums, art galleries, etc.
- Requires human intervention, not just a clever program (Huffington Post vs. Google News)

Curation

Curation is not the same as simple *aggregation* or *listing or tagging*

"When was the last time you went into a museum and found a pile of unrelated stuff that someone thought was "interesting"? That's not a curated collection, it's a garage sale." Ben Harris-Roxas (http://www.harrisroxashealth.com/2012/03/a-curator-is-not-a-digital-dilettante/)

Curation

Curation in this sense also differs from

- Creation
- Re-creation
- Adaptation
- Sampling
- Synthesizing…

Example Commercial Curator

Sunita de Tourreil
Chocolate Curator

Increasing the positive impact of cacao became Sunita's passion more than 7 years ago when she met a native Quechua farmer and began to see how chocolate production affected the health of communities around the world. Sunita was inspired to make what she calls 'Happy Chocolate' more widely available and almost 8 years later, The Chocolate Garage is hard at work to make this dream a reality.

Chocolate aficionados know that the field of cacao and chocolate covers everything from chemistry, politics, agriculture, biology, love, neuroreceptors, flavor, exploitation, vasodilation, addiction, and sustainability. To mention a few. Chocolate is varied and complex enough to keep the biggest geek interested for life and the most superficial glutton eating it regularly.

Sunita falls somewhere between those two ends of the spectrum... and brings her scientific training in molecular biology along with a tremendous appetite for yummy food to the table.

http://thechocolategarage.com

Example Online Curator Job

124492BR

Viral Video Content Curator Intern

Ad.com Group

US - New York - New York City

Intern

Are you obsessed with online videos? Are you the first of your friends to watch and spread the funniest, most entertaining and sometimes controversial videos on the web? Do you find yourself sharing these videos on facebook and twitter? Are you a news junkie with an impressive pulse on what's going on in the world? If the answer is yes to these questions than an Internship in AOL Video Programming is definitely for you!

https://sjobs.brassring.com/1033/ASP/TG/cim_jobdetail.asp?jobId=797468

Curation for Autonomous Language Learning

- Content curation has a long history in language teaching and CALL

- Curator's role for language learning
  - Collect content
  - Organize/sequence
  - Provide language level information
  - Add pedagogical support

Ideal Content Qualities

- Freely and legally available
- Interesting
- Good technical quality
- Stable
- L2 transcripts/captions (for A/V)
- Complementary materials

Systemizing

- Gathering material into thematic units (like rooms in a museum)

- Analyzing for linguistic information

- Sequencing within units

- Sequencing across units

- Adding pedagogical support

    - Commentary

    - Pre/post activities/tasks

    - Other (glossing…)

Example: Curated TED Talks

- Background
  - Advanced listening and vocabulary class: www.stanford.edu/~efs/693b
  - Goal: work on independent projects and continue
- TED Talks: popular but frustrating
- TED project: curate TED talks for autonomous use; pilot for other collections
- Expert: me
- Critical point: a spare time project with no resources—technology is my assistant

Process

1. Get TED database
2. Skim for potential themes/candidate talks
3. Gather candidates and analyze transcripts
   - Word for rough speed in words per minute
   - Vocabulary profiler (www.lextutor.ca/vp/bnc)
   - Skim for unusual terms, idioms
4. Listen to determine accent, potential challenges
5. Select final group (4-5 talks) and sequence
6. See www.stanford.edu/~efs/693b/TED1.html

Sample talk (Creativity group)

2.http://www.ted.com/talks/andy_hobsbawm_says_do_the_green_thing.html. Andy Hobsawm: "Do the green thing."

- length: 3:25
- overall speed (WPM): 135
- vocabulary profile: 3K-92.2%; 5K-95.1%; 10K-98.2%; OL-1.5%
- accent: British standard
- comments: "creativity" is repeated a number of times

TED Integration: 2 collections

- Release to students: March 2012

- Positive response

  – Helpful

  – More support materials, especially key vocab

  – More needed/wanted

- More planned

  – Netflix collections

  – Other sources: ecorner; Google Tech Talks

Final comments

- Case for curating content specifically for supporting autonomous language learners

- Importance of some systemization

- Just the beginning: ripe area for R & D
  - Individually
  - Institutionally

- Curation: a new pillar for CALL

References

Decoo, W. (2010). *Systemization in Foreign Language Teaching: Monitoring Content Progression.* New York: Routledge.

Reinders, H. & Hubbard, P. (in press). CALL and Learner Autonomy: Affordances and Constraints in M. Thomas, H. Reinders, and M. Warschauer (Eds.). *Contemporary Computer Assisted Language Learning*. London: Continuum Books.

Rosenbaum, S. (2011). *Curation Nation: How to Win in a World Where Consumers are Creators*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

PP at **http://www.stanford.edu/~efs/eurocall2012.pdf**