

LEARNING LIKE A

NINJA



While technology is changing the information environment (including information places and spaces), the transactional nature of information and knowledge flow underpins learning. JUDY O'CONNELL tells us more.

A major challenge for LIS education is to enable learning by leveraging appropriate and current information environments, and in more dynamic ways, connecting learning experiences across the contexts of location, time, devices and platforms. Disruptive shifts are already reshaping the workforce landscape and the skills required in GLARM, so our work as educators has to centre on helping to meet future learning needs in courses and programs by fostering a culture of participatory enquiry and pedagogical practices, driven by collaboration and informal learning in multiple access points and through multiple mediums.

Think of it as learning like a ninja – and build a curriculum that has digital flexibility at its heart. Students today need the opportunity to utilise participatory and collaborative tools and approaches in every subject. Every ninja needs regular challenges to build the skills to make a difference. Our knowledgeable graduates need a suite of ninja skills that have been honed through connectivity, collaboration, and participatory open communication – yes, even using Twitter is an essential networking skill!

KEY FACETS OF LEARNING LIKE A NINJA INCLUDE:

- Knowledge assembly – building a reliable, curated information hoard from diverse sources
- Retrieval skills, plus network-savvy critical thinking for making informed judgments about retrieved information, combined with wariness about the validity and completeness of internet sources

- Reading and understanding non-sequential and dynamic material
- Awareness of the value of traditional tools in conjunction with networked media
- Awareness of people networks as sources of advice and help
- Using filters and agents to manage incoming information
- Being comfortable with publishing and communicating information as well as accessing it.

Education needs to include different media, quality research, a variety of articles and online resources, and must be supported by digital artefacts that 'tell the story' or engage learners with the content.

Learning like a ninja means letting go! No more fear of social media or reluctance to learn with and from peers through the use of the latest technologies. Share your work using a #hashtag for your subject. Contribute to the learning by engaging in collaborative content curation. Build digital artefacts and online resources, not just for the subject you are studying, but also for your workplace and for the global community that wants your open-access contribution. Be prepared to share. We have seen subject work highlighted by public sharing via Twitter hashtags – find out what happens when an assessment goes viral after being picked up by knowledgeable people and organisations by checking out this story: bit.ly/1U36jPg.

It's time to learn from the leaders in the field. Work, network and learn together. Become thought leaders in the profession in visible and connected ways. Learn like a ninja.

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