The Idea of the Digital University: Ancient Traditions, Disruptive Technologies and the Battle for the Soul of Higher Education

Frank Bryce McClusky and Melanie Winter

In an early chapter of their book 'The Idea of the Digital University', Frank McCluskey and Melanie Winters quote the playwright Eugene Ionesco, 'all history is a succession of crises, rupture, repudiations, resistances'. The authors' larger idea here is that the 21st–century university is also not exempt from the current socio-technological crisis and rupture occurring through the present digital revolution. The book conducts an exploration of the relatively new phenomenon of the digital online university through perspectives of ancient traditions, disruptive technologies, and current debates occurring in the field of higher education. What is really to be enjoyed in this book is the text's wide berth, situating the 21st–century online university in a wide historical trajectory and within ongoing present discussions. Larger questions that the book grapples with surround how the institution of the traditional university is transforming into larger sets of digital assets to be managed — how and by whom?

Erudite, balanced and measured, McCluskey's philosophy/academic administration background is in evidence, examining the online university from perspectives ranging from McLuhan and the Toronto School of Harold Innis's Empire and Communication, to classic philosophical landscapes (Plato, Aristotle, Kant). The book also importantly situates the online university in the context of 'learning' and within current technological possibility. The text traverses a historical evolution of the university, ranging from histories of American universities, both the ivy leagues and recent for-profits, to the historical foundations of the institutions at Oxford and the Sorbonne, and to the completely new digital entrants. Present developments of the 21st–century university as database are also explored, including the wealth of digital asset, data and media to be managed, mined, explored and organised. To be sure, this is a fair and balanced text containing a multiplicity of views and offering plenty of room to reflect on the complex debates currently occurring on our campuses. Winter's background adds the lesser-known ground of the digital transformation of the university registrar's office, university libraries, student funding and various operational divisions, all explored and interlinked through the technological paradigm shift occurring.

Various sections of this text are worth bookmarking: big data, analytics and the online classroom especially are drawn in careful interrelation. The authors' division of university governance into 'bureaucracy–centred', 'learning–centred' or 'teacher–centred' is also useful for anyone coming to grips with new academic technology possibilities and how to manage the digital assets now contained therein. The book is highly readable: informed and eloquent while not shying away from current contentious debate. Accreditation and online versus face–to–face teaching are all examined from various perspectives. The authors also ask near the book's end 'What of those teaching moments that cannot be analytically measured or that may be lost? How much can be automated and what must remain for a university to retain its soul?' (p. 174). Quoting Yeats, the authors comment, 'Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire'. The book is highly recommended for those interested in the future of education and our universities.

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The Idea of the Digital University: Ancient Traditions, Disruptive Technologies and the Battle for the Soul of Higher Education Edition Unstated. by Frank Bryce McCluskey (Author), Melanie Lynn Winter (Author). Â Frank McCluskey has been at the forefront of the online revolution in higher education since the 1980s. He took his PhD in Philosophy with a thesis on Hegel from the New School and has been a National Endowment Post Doctoral Fellow at Yale University. He has published numerous articles and has lectured all over the world. He has served as Dean of Online Learning at Mercy College in New York and is the retired Provost of the American Public University System where he oversaw more than 85,000 students and 1,600 faculty, all operating online. Session Outline The concept of the Digital University - of the Higher Education institution that is digitally enabled and digitally agile in their practices - is being widely debated within the sector (e.g. McCluskey and Winter, 2012), and various understandings of what being digital means are becoming increasingly embedded in the policy, practice and futures planning of higher education institutions. However, what being a Digital University might look like in practice, and what this means for learning, teaching, student support, and research and scholarship, is a contested area. Â The idea of the Digital University: ancient traditions, disruptive technologies and the battle for the soul of higher education. Washington: Policy Studies Organization. Related Interests. The Idea of the Digital University: Ancient Traditions, Disruptive Technologies and the Battle for the Soul of Higher Education. F B Mccluskey. M L Winter. 2016 Survey of Technology Enhanced Learning for higher education in the UK. Research. Full-text available. Â Prospects for higher education are discussed in the context of technologies and globalization sweeping over the world and affecting many of the world economy sectors. The report describes opportunities that will appear ahead of universities if they go for radical transformations in their key institutions, and analyzes the risks that may arise if such transformations lose to the challenges of the 21st century. The model of a traditional 21st century university and its functions are characterized. The Idea of the Digital University: Ancient Traditions, Disruptive Technologies and the Battle for the Soul of Higher Education, a book by Frank Bryce McCluskey, Melanie Lynn Winter. Turing's Cathedral: The Origins of the Digital Universe. Turing's Cathedral: The Origins of the Digital Universe: Dyson, George: 9780375422775: Books - Amazon.ca. Turing's Cathedral. Â With outdoor living projects on the rise, DANVER is proud to be an industry trendsetter and major contributor for the past ten years. We have seen with our years of experience, sales and daily interactions, that the principal trend in upscale outdoor living is moving beyond just building an outdoor kitchen toward creating a completeâ€¦ Outdoor Games Free Stock Photo - Public Domain Pictures. Outdoor Games. Even before COVID-19, there was already high growth and adoption in education technology, with global edtech investments reaching US$18.66 billion in 2019 and the overall market for online education projected to reach $350 Billion by 2025 . Whether it is language apps , virtual tutoring , video conferencing tools, or online learning software , there has been a significant surge in usage since COVID-19. How is the education sector responding to COVID-19? In response to significant demand, many online learning platforms are offering free access to their services, including platforms like BYJUâ€™S