

Meghan Adamovic
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PLE Narrative

As I was thinking about my Personal Learning Environment (PLE) it took me a while to figure out exactly what the main themes of that environment is. Ultimately I decided to divide my learning up in Traditional, Virtual, and Physical. I recognize that there is some overlap with these, but they make for comprehensible divisions. The Traditional theme (and yes, these are items that are largely in the physical world) were the first things that come to my mind when I think about learning in the usual sense. Schools, book, news agencies, etc. fall under this category. I decided to put NPR and The New York Times under Traditional even though I generally access both of these in a digital way. I still understand them in a traditional way and, when possible, actually prefer to access them in the paper, hands-on form (for the Times).

The second division I made was for those Virtual learning areas. These are online learning sources that range from blogs, to search engines, to lectures like the TED Talks. It is to these sources that I feel constantly connected and that is the draw of Virtual or digital learning environments. They also allow for more of a conversation with those dispensing knowledge, which creates a much different learning dynamic.

Finally, I divided the rest of my learning into that of the Physical. It is through the physical that I actually process much of what I've learned. Going for a run or a walk or writing for fun or even cooking lets my brain function in a different way. I have the chance to think about things differently and decompress in some ways. A run allows me to think about everything and nothing at the same time and sort out what is most important.

Ideally, all of these learning environments work together and complement each other to give me the most complete way to understand the world. And because I so often understand the world through words and writing, I chose to frame my entire PLE as a game of Scrabble. Games like Scrabble allow the player to be creative and have fun, but also they must adhere to rules if they are to play the game correctly. That is how I feel about my learning, it should be a fun, exciting, creative process, but boundaries help me manage it well.