

# Digital Landscapes 'inclusive potential versus exclusive practice'



Sue Watling - University of Lincoln, UK

11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Diversity in Organisations, Communities and Nations

University of the Western Cape

Capetown, South Africa

20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> June 2011

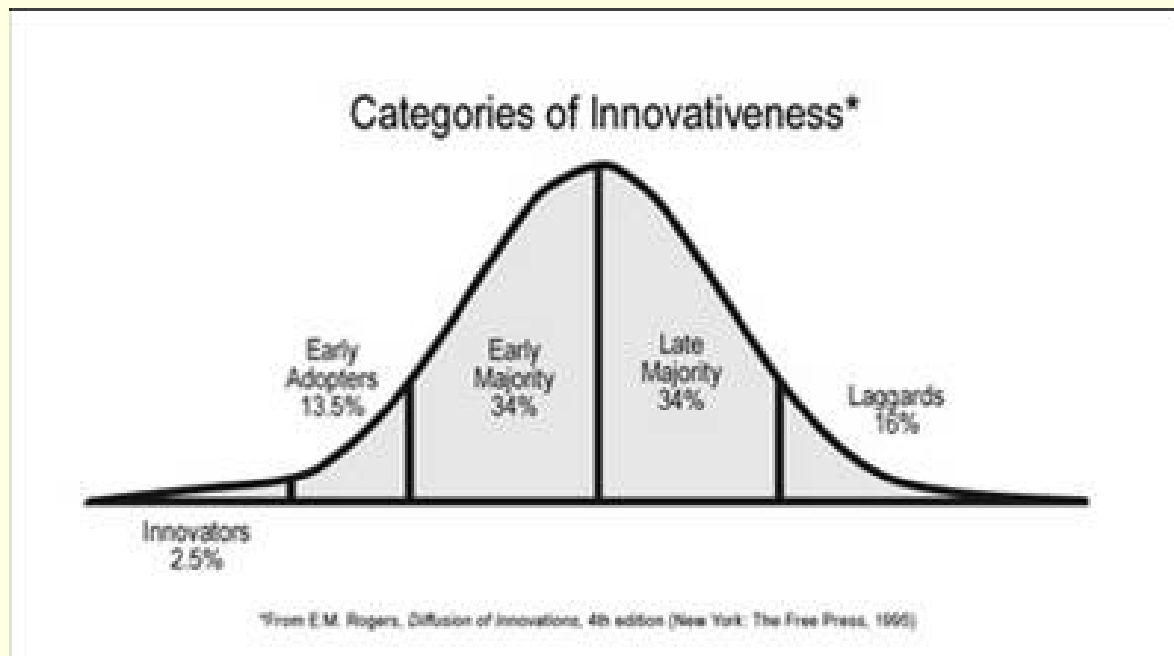
# Digital Landscapes: Introduction

---

- Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs)
- Promise of 'transformative change'
- Widening opportunities
- Potential for inclusive education but equal potential for exclusion
- Digital divides 'complex and dynamic phenomena' (van Dijk 2003)
- Digital divides 'replicated and reinforced by social divides' (Steyaert 2005)

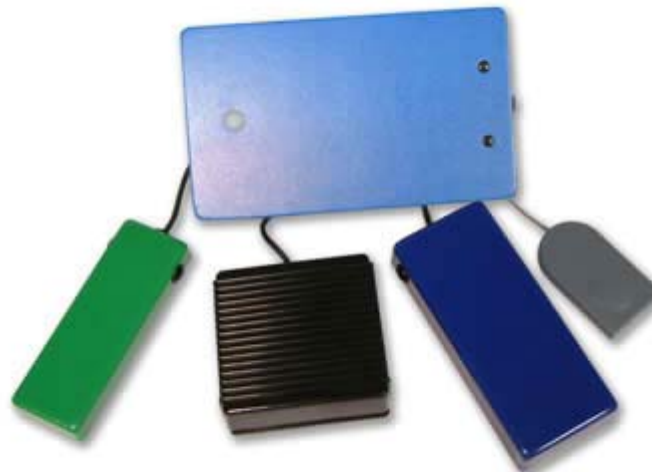
# Inhabitants of digital landscapes

## ■ The technology continuum



■ (Rogers 1983)

# Assistive Technology



# Changing digital landscapes

---

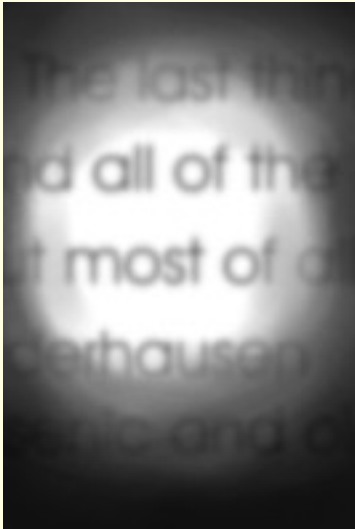
- Web 1.0 to Web 2.0
- Read-only to interactivity
- Consumer to Producer
- Changing digital toolbox and changing digital divides
- We can all be digital authors...

# MEE-Model

---



# Vision impairment

Retinitis Pigmentosa or Glaucoma	Macular Degeneration	Diabetic Retinopathy	Cataracts
	<p>leep is an over- aste of time-- ot of energy, it o... The id other fine ough's come om Ben My r</p>	<p>ers see. n... ife is not who ou make it. I s what life me of you that de whether you c im. I, Tyler, de here to go</p>	<p>/ gift is my so d this one's f d you can te erybody that s is your song may be quite ple, but nov</p>



At any time

Bank



KEEP CLEAR

KEEP CLEAR







# Aversive Disablism

---

- “Aversive disablists recognise disablism is bad but do not recognise that they themselves are prejudiced. Likewise, aversive disablism, like aversive racism, is often unintentional” (Deal 2009:24).
- Addressing diversity of access
- Challenging the MEE-model of digital access

# Summary

---

- Digital landscapes: inclusive potential versus exclusive practices
- Digital literacies: the ‘social shaping’ of technology (Bijker and Law 1992)
- Social practices for enabling and not denying access
- Contact: [swatling@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:swatling@lincoln.ac.uk)
- <http://suewatling.blogs.lincoln.ac.uk>

# References

---

- Bijker, W. & Law, J. (eds.) (1992) **Shaping Technology/Building Society: studies in socio-technical change** London: MIT Press.
- Deal, M. (2007) Aversive disablism: subtle prejudice toward disabled people **Disability & Society** 22 (1) 93:107
- Rogers, E.M. (1983) **Diffusion of Innovations** New York: Free Press
- Steyaert J. (2005) Web based higher education, the inclusion/exclusion paradox. **Journal of Technology in Human Services**, 23 (1/2) 67:78.
- Van Dijk, J. & Hacker, K. (2003) The Digital Divide as a Complex and Dynamic Phenomenon. **The Information Society** 19, (4), 315:326