Notes from Break out session: "Pedagogy in the Age of Social Media"

Christian A. Hedrick

What constitutes Social Media (SM)? Sites and Applications such as Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr, WhatsApp, Twitter, QZone, WeChat etc. should be distinguished from AMS's/LMS's (Learning Management Softwares) specifically for use within and around learning environments (e.g. Canvas, Piazza, TopHat, Blackboard etc.)

Role of SM as providing different opportunities/methods of connecting with students within and beyond the classroom environment. How can their learning experience in the classroom be enhanced though the use of SM beyond the classroom?

One must be careful to set and articulate specific rules and boundaries regarding social media technologies etc. The line between one's private and public life – between home and school etc. must be identified and respected. Expectations of professors must also be clear to the students so they are aware what role these media play and what they are responsible and accountable for. We generally agreed that it would be best if students did not use personal accounts for sharing content etc. and that creating new profiles for academic use might be the best way to maintain this private/public distinction.

Bearing in mind the 2016 Stanford study entitled "Evaluating Information: The Cornerstone of Civic Online Reasoning," which found that over 80% of middle school students could not distinguish between "sponsored content" and a real news story on a website, the researchers were stunned by how ill prepared students are to critically evaluate their news (etc.) sources (esp. via the internet and social media). The study also found that "almost 70% of 200 students responding didn't highlight the authorship as a reason for mistrust" of a given article. It turns out that by the age of 18, 88% of young adults regularly get news from Facebook and other social media, according to a 2015 study of 1,045 adults ages 18 to 34 by the Media Insight Project. The researchers concluded that "Overall, young people's ability to reason about the information on the Internet can be summed up in one word: *bleak*." This provides educators to harness the power of SM in order to challenge and evaluate content and material provided through these sites in order to raise awareness.

What aspects are missing today between the professor and student? In other words, there is a gap (technological and/or generational etc.) between how students learn and the places from where they draw their information – and how today's instructors teach. Most professors in architectural history are still using PowerPoint – the same methods established over a century ago. Today's students, whether it is liked or not, learn in vastly different ways with different ways, means and technologies. <u>One proposal to fill this gap is to create a GAHTC APP.</u>

What would a GAHTC App look like??

We decided that there could be different Apps for different groups or purposes. Option 1 might be an App for students to use outside the classroom. Perhaps it takes the shape of a game something similar to (digital) **Geocaching** games like *BotFighters*, *Ingress*, and *Pokémon* *Go*. This kind of app would allow students to visit a variety of sites and learn a great deal about particular sites and connections between them etc.

Another Option (2) would to have the App available for GAHTC participants/educators etc. This one might take the form of something like the "Visual Thesaurus"

(https://www.visualthesaurus.com). One could perhaps enter a building or site and instantly be presented with various aspects of that site through connector lines linking one to something else about the site. One could keep following these connections in much the same way one might read a "Choose your own Adventure" book. This kind of App would facilitate Global interconnectivity, exchange, geographical relationships, personal relationships etc. The App **would not be** like SAHARA, ArtStor, Archnet, etc. but might ideally draw information from them! One example is attached – quick hand outline sketch on PDF....

