

Ne(x)t Generation Learning Space - An ongoing Free and Open Course

Contributed by Andreas Meiszner
Saturday, 09 August 2008
Last Updated Monday, 11 August 2008

NetGenerers.Net: A Free and Open Learning
Space to become a ne(x)t
generation learner and to get the skills you need in lifelong learning
knowledge and information societies

About
NetGenerers.Net

Career relevance (What's in
it for me?)

For whom is NetGenerers.Net?

NetGenerers.Net environment and
spaces

NetGenerers.Net - English
Language only?

Contacts

About NetGenerers.Net

NetGenerers.Net is a Free and Open learning space for you to develop
the skills you need in today's lifelong learning and knowledge societies.

You might think of NetGenerers.Net as a course,
just that it is Free, Open and flexible without fixed start and end date.

The NetGenerers.Net learning space intends to help you to becoming a knowledgeable ne(x)t generation learner that:

Is able to

update his skills and knowledge self-dependently within a lifelong learning context

Knows how

to take full advantage of the web to support your own learning, to collaborate with others and use the tools required to do so

Is capable

to find sources at the web and to critically evaluate and analyse them

Is aware

about available free online and desktop software solutions that facilitate learning, knowledge exchange and collaboration

Knows how

to find online communities, to engage in them for personal support, and to and understands the way they function

Has the

today's required soft skills; like to communicate, collaborate and engage in discussions with others, defend your own work and thoughts and present them, know how to manage a project, or how to resolve conflicts

NetGenerers.Net is supposed to be an open and participatory learning experience that involves practical 'hands-on' sessions where your learning activities and the things you create will become a part of the NetGenerers.Net learning space.

This is to say that others should be enabled to benefit from your achievements and build upon the things you started, instead of starting from scratch - just like you would benefit from what the others did!

At NetGenerers.Net you will not only act as a passive learner, but become an active contributor and co-creator. You will be asked to establish your own learning projects and project teams; or to join into learning projects of others; and you also will have a voice to tell us what you think this NetGenerers.Net still needs.

As a NetGenerers.Net participant you can expect tutoring (support), but will not receive any official degree awarding certificate or credit points from the NetGenerers.Net team. The NetGenerers.Net team is there for you to provide you with guidance, to mentor your project, to discuss about problems, to participate at regular chats - and after all: to have a great time.

Career relevance (What's in it for me?)

Knowledge is becoming obsolete faster and faster and if you are a 4 years' university student for a technical degree you might see that half of what you learned during your first year will be out of date by your third year of study.

You might have to face more than 15 different jobs before you turn 40, plus the top 10 in demand jobs in 2010 did not exist in 2004 - so how will you prepare for this?

You are supposed to prepare yourself for jobs that not even exist yet, that demand the use of technologies that haven't been invented in order to solve problems that you don't know are problems yet.

Are
you prepared for this?

Universities and formal education at large struggle to update their courses within these shorter and shorter cycles or to develop new ones, and lessons are still largely given like 100 years ago.

Do
you really want to wait and hope they will get it right for you?

This is why you need to know how to take advantage of the web for your personal learning needs to have a competitive advantage at today's job market.

Some illustrating and brief sources for a better understanding on this can be found here.

For whom is NetGenerers.Net?

NetGenerers.Net is for:

Students in formal education on a individual base
Free learner outside of formal education on a individual base
Educators (Teachers) that like to participate with their students at NetGenerers.Net and might want to feed parts of it into their courses (and vice versa to bring in their knowledge and content at NetGenerers.Net).

There is no minimum age limit, nor any minimum prior educational requirements.

NetGenerers.Net environment and spaces

The main space consists of the NetGenerers.Net site, but also includes a large range of further web spaces.

The web is disperse and using a broad range of environments, spaces and

tools will help you to get familiar with it.

The NetGeners.Net site can be used for general information, as a space for you to present yourself, and for communication with others through e.g. chat or forums.

The NetGeners.Net site is also the space that hosts all learning projects and provides a basic overview on what those learning projects are about.

Other used web spaces might include blogs (e.g. Wordpress), online content repositories (e.g. the UNESCO's Open Training platform), spaces that allow presenting and sharing multimedia works (e.g. Slideshare or Youtube), collaborative development spaces (e.g. Wikiversity or Google Docs) and online communities (such as Jiskha, PhysicsForums and many more).

NetGeners.Net - English language only?

The overall language is English, though participants might start their own learning projects within their respective language, but would be asked to present a short summary of their learning project results in English.

Contacts

NetGeners.Net is moderated and run by Andreas Meiszner (a.meiszner@open.ac.uk)

Research fellow at Institute
of Educational Technology, The Open
University, UK