Education is moving into the digital age. Pedagogies have changed to engage the latest digital technologies. The methods of distribution are now a blend between face-to-face and some other combination of virtual interfaces. The content is moving from traditional text-based learning to text-plus-multimedia. The community is now involved in the development of content. One of the leaders in this transition is Connexions.

Connexions (http://cnx.org/) is an open-source platform and open-access repository for open educational resources, enabling educators, learners, and non-traditional text-based learning to text-plus-multimedia. The community is now involved in the development of content. One of the leaders in this transition is Connexions.

The world of education is still in transition; the move to an all-digital environment will not be completed for some time to come. The cost of creating high-end multimedia content, although coming down, is still prohibitive for all but the very edge of the marketplace. Thus, print and text-based content remains a major part of the education world. Connexions bridges the print/text-based and multimedia worlds. Connexions’ XML-based platform, which enables the development of the most sophisticated multimedia content, includes a print engine that allows materials to be printed on-demand. With the modular nature of the content in Connexions, along with authors’ ability to enter their own content, material can be adapted to meet the individual needs of the user. Through Connexions, users can adapt educational material to make it culturally relevant, to have it meet the learning style of the information consumer, and/or to make the material grade-or age-level appropriate without having to create the entire piece of content from scratch. The combination of repurposeable, modularizable content and Connexions’ print-on-demand system makes it easy for Connexions users to produce customized, fit-for-purpose textbooks.

Connexions is also redefining knowledge creation. The community is now involved. Everyone is welcome to create knowledge and place it into the knowledge commons. The inclusion of the entire global population into the knowledge commons is in use by colleges and universities, com-

ERRY OF THE WORLD WITTY. Since 1999, Connexions has pioneered digital education. Connexions’ global knowledge ecosystem, where anyone can create materials, is free of charge. Connexions’ modular interactive information is in use by colleges and universities, community colleges, primary and secondary schools, and lifelong learners worldwide. Connexions’ materials are available in many languages, including English, Chinese, Spanish, Japanese, Vietnamese, Italian, French, Portuguese, and Thai. Through a partnership with innovative publisher QOOP, Connexions is part of an exciting new distribution system that allows for print-on-demand and accelerates the delivery of educational materials into classrooms worldwide.

The rate of change in the world’s knowledge base and the integration of that knowledge base into the educational space have added to the increasingly dynamic nature of the education sector. Digital ecosystems like Connexions have facilitated the development of new paradigms by which educational content is created, used, and distributed. These developments have radically improved the likelihood that everyone can engage in the world of education.

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