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Online collaboration tools at the University of South Australia

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Which tool?

Flexibility in time, place and pace

Asynchronous

Web based

Collaborative

Multipoint access



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Criteria for online collaboration tools

web based
asynchronous vs synchronous
multipoint

Our collaborative e-learning tools

Tool	Web based	Asynchronous	Synchronous	Multipoint
Discussion Forum	X			X
Online Journal / Notes	X	X		
Text chat	X		X	X
Web safari	X	X	X	X
Virtual presentation	X	X	X	X
Whiteboard	X	X	X	X
Survey	X	X		X
Remote Laboratory	X		X	X
Application sharing		X	X	X

Other tools we are looking at

Tool	Web based	Asynchronous	Synchronous	Multipoint
Google docs	X	X		X
SharePoint	X	X		X
Delicious	X	X		X
CiteULike	X	X		X
Grid computing			X	X
Polycom			X	only with bridge



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Tools that are not really collaborative

Blogs

Wikis

RSS feeds

PodCasts

YouTube, Facebook, MySpace, Flickr

Formative assessment, Summative assessment

Student Portfolio

Assignment submission and tracking



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Common features

‘read/write web’ (Web2.0)

Freely available

More like popular web tools than course management systems

- Participative not passive



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A challenging thought to finish

... the multimedia world will be populated by two essentially distinct populations: the *interacting and the interacted*, meaning those who are able to select their multidirectional circuits of communication, and those who are provided with a restricted number of prepackaged choices. And who is what will be largely determined by class, race, gender and country. The unifying cultural power of mass television (from which only a tiny cultural elite had escaped in the past) is now replaced by a socially stratified differentiation, leading to the coexistence of a customized mass media culture and an interactive electronic communication network of self-selected communes.

Castells (2000) [*The Rise of the Network Society*](#) Blackwell (2nd ed, p.402)



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A question

Are we creating 'edu-TV' or truly interactive communities?