TED Talks, Ideas Worth Spreading: Resource Guide

Ongoing

Generated November 24, 2026 · 4 open facilities · closed facilities are not listed · call before you go: details change quickly

Worldwide

GapMinder (free demographic data, studying social conditions)

Info/Hotline · Open

Web www.gapminder.org
Service Temporary

See Ted Talk intro. Changing your worldview w/the data: https://www.ted.com/playlists/35/bill_gates_my_13_favorite_tal.html

Services offered: Advocacy, Social Justice; Documentation, Economic; Documentation, Standards, Health & Human Rights; Documentation, Video, Poverty Illustration; Information Resource * (ANY/ALL Types); Information Resource, Demographic Information; Information Resource, Watchdog Site, Social Justice
Campaigns: TED Talks, Ideas Worth Spreading

Updated May 17, 2013 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/9694

Hole–in–the–Wall (teaching via computers)

Info/Hotline · Open

Web www.hole–in–the–wall.com
Service Temporary

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology–10663353

16 July 2010 Last updated at 07:51 ET

Using computers to teach children with no teachers

By Jonathan Fildes Technology reporter, BBC News, Oxford

Children using computer via a hole in a wall The original experiment let children interact with a PC via a hole in a wall

A 10–year experiment that started with Indian slum children being given access to computers has produced a new concept for education, a conference has heard.

Professor Sugata Mitra first introduced children in a Delhi slum to computers in 1999.

He has watched the children teach themselves – and others – how to use the machines and gather information.

Follow up experiments suggest children around the world can learn complex tasks quickly with little supervision.

"I think we have stumbled across a self–organising system with learning as an emergent behaviour," he told the TED Global (Technology, Entertainment and Design) conference.
Learning curve

Professor Mitra's work began when he was working for a software company and decided to embed a computer in the wall of his office in Delhi that was facing a slum.

"The children barely went to school, they didn't know any English, they had never seen a computer before and they didn't know what the internet was."

To his surprise, the children quickly figured out how to use the computers and access the internet.

"I repeated the experiment across India and noticed that children will learn to do what they want to learn to do."
Hole–in–the–wall computer station, HiWel The experiment has been repeated in many more places with very similar results

He saw children teaching each other how to use the computer and picking up new skills.

One group in Rajasthan, he said, learnt how to record and play music on the computer within four hours of it arriving in their village.

"At the end of it we concluded that groups of children can learn to use computers on their own irrespective of who or where they are," he said.

His experiments then become more ambitious and more global.

In Cambodia, for example, he left a simple maths game for children to play with.

"No child would play with it inside the classroom. If you leave it on the pavement and all the adults go away then they will show off to one another about what they can do," said Prof Mitra, who now works at Newcastle University in the UK.

He has continued his work in India.
Stress test

"I wanted to test the limits of this system," he said. "I set myself an impossible target: can Tamil speaking 12–year–olds in south India teach themselves biotechnology in English on their own?"

The researcher gathered 26 children and gave them computers preloaded with information in English.

"I told them: 'there is some very difficult stuff on this computer, I won't be surprised if you don't understand anything'."

Two months later, he returned.
Children with OLPC laptops, AFP/Getty Many initiatives aim to put computers in the hands of children

Initially the children said they had not learnt anything, despite the fact that they used the computers everyday.

"Then a 12–year–old girl raised her hand and said 'apart from the fact that improper replication of the DNA contributes to genetic disease – we've understood nothing else'."

Further experiment showed that having a person – known as "the granny figure" – stand behind the children and encourage them raised standards even higher.

Returning to the UK, he fine–tuned his method even further.

He gave groups of four children a computer each and set them a series of GCSE questions.

The groups were allowed to exchange information and swap members.

"The best group solved everything in 20 minutes, the worst in 45 minutes."

To prove that the children were learning, and not just skimming information off the web, he returned two months later and set the same questions. Crucially, this time the children had to answer them on their own with no computer aids.

"The average score when I did it with computers was 76%. When I did it without computers, the average score was 76% – they had near photographic recall."

Professor Mitra has now formalised the lessons from his experiments and has come up with a new concept for schools called SOLE (Self Organised Learning Environments).

These spaces consist of a computer with a bench big enough to let four children sit around the screen.

"It doesn't work if you give them each a computer individually," he said.

For his experiments he has also created a "granny cloud" – 200 volunteer grandmothers who can be called upon to video chat with the kids and provide encouragement.

He has tested the spaces in the UK and Italy, with similar results, and now believes it should be tested more widely.

"We could change everything," he said.

TED Global runs form the 13 to the 16 July in Oxford, UK.

Services offered: Documentation, Standards, Health & Human Rights; New "Business" Models; New "Business" Models, Education; New "business" models, Intel/Mgmt; School, New Educational Concept; Services, Educational Services (See also Category for School); Services, Social Services, General Social Services; Training * (ANY/ALL Types of Instruction)
Campaigns: TED Talks, Ideas Worth Spreading
Updated Aug 22, 2011 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/8772

List of FREE Online Courses (from CalState)

Info/Hotline · Open

Web www.csufresno.edu/tilt/resources/oer.shtml
Service Temporary

See above link for links to:

OER Commons
OER content is made free to use or share, and in some cases, to change and share again, made possible through licensing, so that both teachers and learners can share what they know.

Internet Archive
The Internet Archive offers a library of Open Educational Resources and university lectures. This library contains hundreds of free courses, video lectures, and supplemental materials from universities in the United States and China. Many of these lectures are available for download.

MERLOT
Peer reviewed online teaching and learning materials.

The Orange Grove
Online library of free instructional resources.

Connexions
A place to view and share educational material made of small knowledge chunks called modules that can be organized as courses, books, reports, etc. Anyone may view or contribute.

MIT Open Courseware
Free lecture notes, videos, and exams from MIT – no registration required.

Academic Earth
Free online video courses from leading universities.

Open Courseware Consortium
The Open Course Ware Consortium is a collaboration of more than 200 higher education institutions and associated organizations from around the world creating a broad and deep body of open educational content using a shared model.

SOFIA
Sofia encourages the free exchange of community college level materials.

Folksemantic
Find, discuss. Remix, and develop learning resources.

TED – Ideas Worth Spreading
Consider using TED to initiate class discussions.

Kahn Academy
Watch. Practice. Learn almost anything for free!

Visit our Diigo (http://www.diigo.com/user/tilt2011) page for more resources. Click on the 'OpenEducationalResources' tag to view bookmarks specific to that topic.

Services offered: Information Resource, Alternative Schools/Education; New "Business" Models, Education; School * (ANY/ALL Types); School, High School; School, New Educational Concept; Training * (ANY/ALL Types of Instruction) ; Training Classes, Business Skills; Training Classes, Online/Virtual Training
Campaigns: TED Talks, Ideas Worth Spreading
Updated Aug 22, 2011 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/8775

TED "Ideas Worth Spreading" (online repository of video lectures)

Info/Hotline · Open

Web www.ted.com
Service Temporary

from website:

TEDTalks began as a simple attempt to share what happens at TED with the world. Under the moniker "ideas worth spreading," talks were released online. They rapidly attracted a global audience in the millions. Indeed, the reaction was so enthusiastic that the entire TED website has been reengineered around TEDTalks, with the goal of giving everyone on–demand access to the world's most inspiring voices.

The TED Fellows helps world–changing innovators from around the globe become part of the TED community and, with its help, amplify the impact of their remarkable projects and activities. TED Fellows, TEDGlobal Fellows, and TED Senior Fellows are drawn from many disciplines that reflect the diversity of TED's members: technology, entertainment, design, the sciences, the humanities, the arts, NGOs, business and more.

The TEDx program gives communities, organizations and individuals the opportunity to stimulate dialogue through TED–like experiences at the local level. TEDx events are planned and coordinated independently.

The TED Open Translation Project brings TEDTalks beyond the English–speaking world by offering subtitles, interactive transcripts and the ability for any talk to be translated by volunteers worldwide. We launched the project with more than 250 translations, 50 languages and 100 volunteer translators; one year on, there are more than 21,000 completed translations from our thousands–strong community. It's an ambitious project that radically enhances the accessibility of the talks –– for the hearing–impaired, for those who speak English as a second language, for search engines (which can now index the full transcript of a talk), and of course for the vast audience of non–English speakers worldwide.

Today, TED is best thought of as a global community. It's a community welcoming people from every discipline and culture who seek a deeper understanding of the world.

Services offered: School, New Educational Concept; Training * (ANY/ALL Types of Instruction) ; Training Classes, Communication Skills; Training Classes, Computers Skills; Training Classes, Financial Literacy; Training Classes, Financial, Money Management; Training Classes, Life Skills, Misc.; Training Classes, Online/Virtual Training
Campaigns: TED Talks, Ideas Worth Spreading
Updated Aug 22, 2011 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/8773