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Open Palimpsests: Layering Technologies, Partnerships, Resources, and Practices for Open Education

A palimpsest, according to Merriam-Webster, is some type of writing material that has been used one or more times and displays "diverse layers or aspects apparent beneath the surface." In response to synergies among open education, data, scholarship, and technology, how can digital palimpsests be designed for open learning? This presentation advances a "open palimpsest" model. Specifically, this presentation: Defines a open palimpsest model; describes a case of one open palimpsest; and discusses implications for open palimpsests as digital architecture for open education.

The presentation will begin by sharing Author's (in review) open palimpsest model which is comprised of five layers:

- Open source technology that adopts open web standards (i.e. interoperable, sharable, distributed).
- Public partnerships among multiple stakeholders; partnering buttresses a foundation of technical specifications.
- The content of a open palimpsest includes open access (OA) scholarship and OER, including open data as OER (i.e. Atenas & Havemann, 2015).
- The use of OA scholarship and OER by a public partnership atop open source technology engenders varied open educational practices (OEP; Jhangiani & Biswas-Diener, 2017), including open pedagogy (DeRosa & Jhangiani, 2017).
- The technology, partnerships, resources, and practices of a open palimpsest build a participatory and intellectual knowledge commons (Deimann & Peters, 2016).

The open palimpsest model has been adopted by the Marginal Syllabus, a professional development initiative that convenes conversations with K-12 teachers and higher education faculty about educational equity via open web annotation. The Marginal Syllabus is built atop Hypothesis, a standards-compliant open source technology (Whaley, 2017). The effort is a partnership among researchers, authors of scholarship about educational equity, educators, Hypothesis, and the National Writing Project. Author partnerships have helped the Marginal Syllabus annotate OA scholarship published by Corwin, NYU Press, Teachers College Press, Sage, the National Council of Teachers of English, WW Norton, and Heinemann. The Marginal Syllabus' OEP include annotating texts, affording multimodal expression, establishing connections across contexts, curating OER, and visualizing cognition. Finally, the Marginal Syllabus contributes to a future of "openness in education [that] is not a movement for the emancipation of resources, but of people and practice" (Havemann, 2016, p. 6).

The presentation will conclude by discussing implications of the open palimpsest model for architecting open education that promotes inquiry, collaboration, and agency.

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