

Open Digital Badges in Library and Information Science Education

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My Personal Inspiration

- 2012-2014
- Open digital badges are a powerful tool for recognizing skills, knowledge, and achievements, and can provide numerous advantages for learners, teachers, peers and potential employers.



Benefits of Open Digital Badges



Demonstrate your skills and achievements to others (potential employers, colleagues, peers)

The diagram consists of five white circles arranged vertically on the left side, connected by a thin line. Each circle is positioned to the left of a horizontal brown bar containing text. The first bar has a yellow callout box to its right.

This can be especially valuable in today's competitive job market, where employers are constantly looking for candidates with unique & diverse skill sets.

Recognise learning and serve as evidence of your mastery of a particular topic or concept

Motivate individuals to learn and help stay motivated and engaged in learning and personal growth

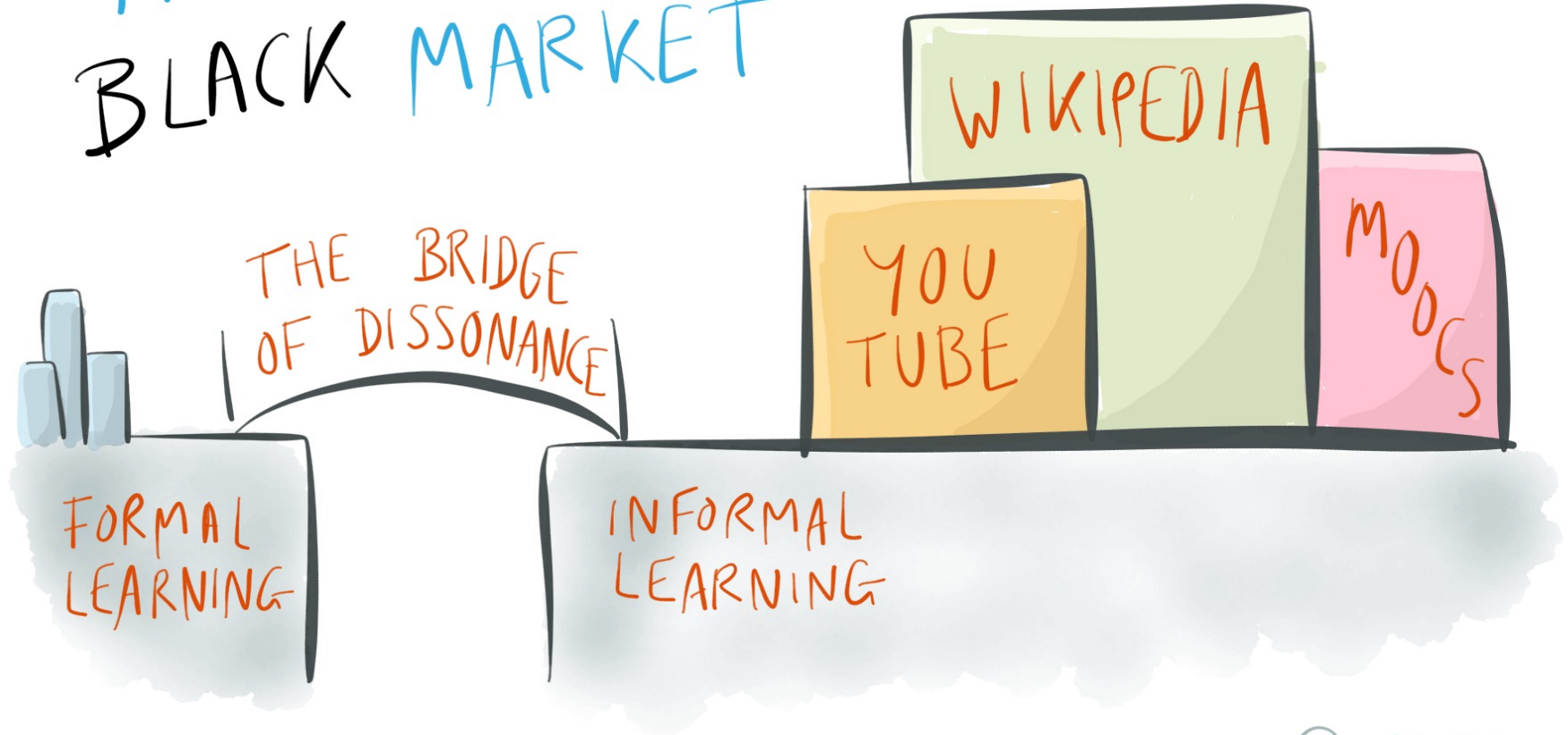
Connect with others who share similar interests and passions

Assessing and evaluating learning

Providing a new mechanism to recognise skills, experience and knowledge through an open, transferable, stackable technology framework



THE LEARNING BLACK MARKET



@bryanMmathers

CATHERINE CRONIN @ALTC



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According to estimates, 70-90 percent of adult learning occurs outside of official educational institutions (Gomez, 2022).

WHY should we use open digital badges in educating future librarians?

- Besides the various educational benefits, I firmly believe that if upcoming librarians and information professionals have a positive and enriching experience with ODBs during their studies, they will be better equipped to use them effectively within a library setting.





YOUR
EXPERIENCES
HAVE VALUE



Just like a diamond, every student is unique, with their own set of strengths and weaknesses.



I AM MORE THAN JUST MY GRADES



HONESTY
INTEGRITY
DETERMINATION
CHARACTER
SENSE OF HUMOUR
COLLABORATION
ENTHUSIASM
WORK ETHIC
CREATIVITY
KINDNESS
HUMILITY
CHARITY

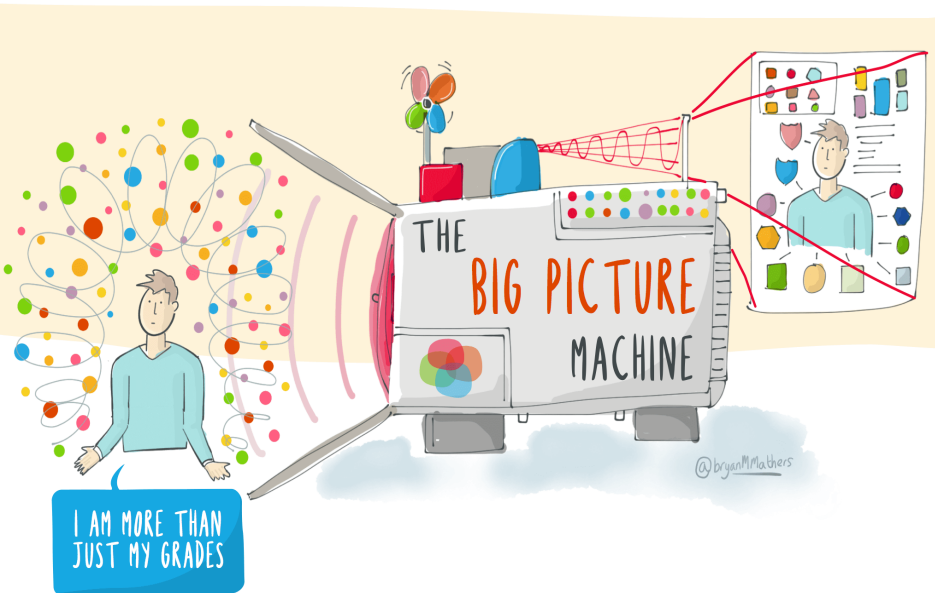
@bryanMMathers



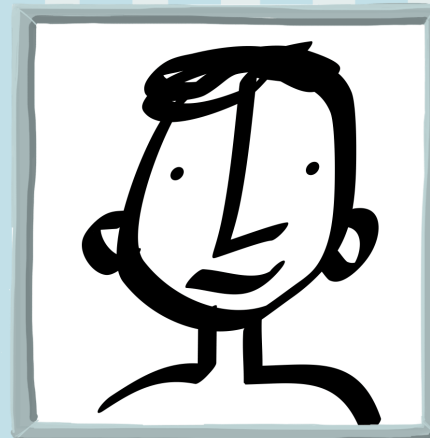
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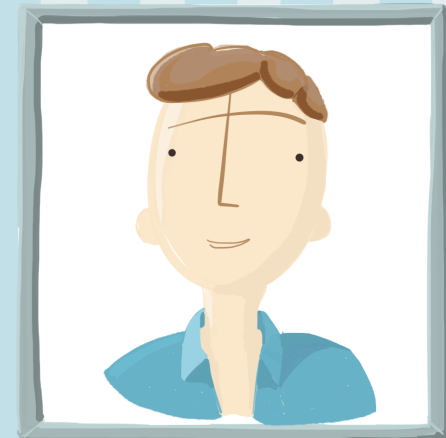
A CERTIFICATE
IS JUST AN
OFFLINE
BADGE...



BROAD BRUSHSTROKES



FINE DETAIL

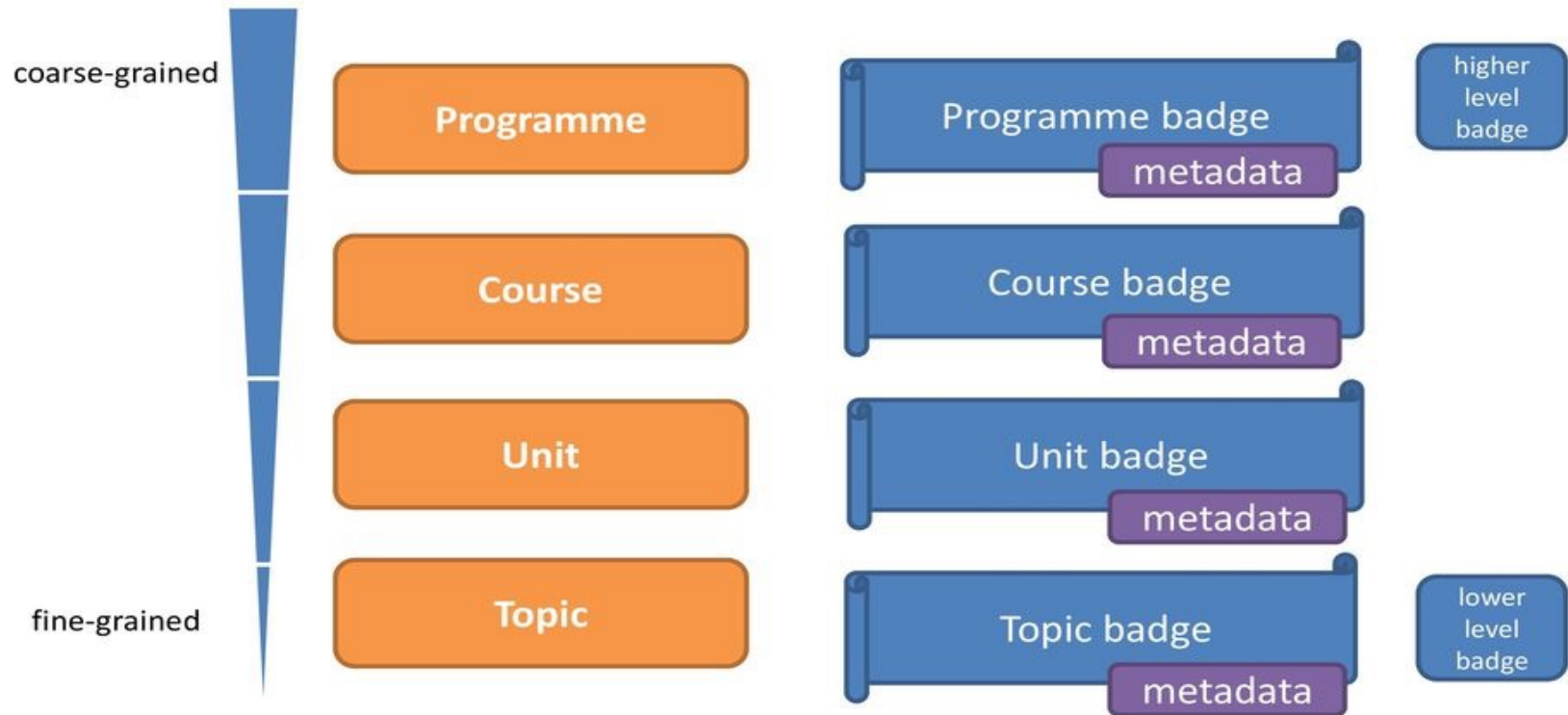


OPEN BADGES PAINT A BETTER PICTURE...

There are Many Possibilities for Educators to Use Badges



Granularity and awarding digital badges



Types of Open Digital Badges

There are many types of ODBs

Outcome-based badges

- Basic Knowledge Badges
- Skills Badges
- Advanced Knowledge Badges

Multiple level badges

- Regular Badges
- Golden Badges (Gold, Silver, Bronze)

Multiple learning pathways

- Researcher
- Practitioner
- Enlightener
- Wikipedist

Broken badges

to point out unwanted behaviour (e.g. being late with the assignments)

Deconstructed badges

large learning activities could be deconstructed into separate independent badges (e.g. peer review badge for LR)



Using Open Digital Badges in my Course “Data-driven Decision Making and Change Management in Organizations”



Open Badges

- **Basic Knowledge Badges** – 6 badges – based on individual assignments and forum/class discussions.
- **Skill-based Badges** – 12 badges (social skills and literacies).
- **Advanced Knowledge Badges** – 6 badges on the basis of personal learning path, which the student can choose according to his personal learning goals and which tasks he/she needs to achieve the goals.
- **Level Based Badges** – 3 badges - “Gold”, “Silver”, and “Bronze” - directly reflected the formal grading system of the course - excellent – gold badges, very good - silver badges, good – bronze badges)



Basic Knowledge Badges



Skill-based Badges



Learning Pathways

1. **Researcher** - writing a literature review or a research paper.
2. **Practitioner** - developing data analysis and forecasting models or practical solutions using freeware software solutions.
3. **Bibliographer** - compiling an annotated bibliography on the course topic.
4. **Bibliometrist** - compiling a bibliometric analysis of publishing activity of the researchers in the field connected with the topic of this course.
5. **Wikipedist** - writing Wikipedia articles on the topic of this course.
6. **Enlightener** - introducing a new concept, method, tool or technology related to this course, at contact hours or virtual environment.



Advanced Knowledge Badges



Level Based Badges



ODBs in Libraries

- ODBs are a rather important topic for librarians.
- **Public libraries** and library associations, particularly in the United States, have been the earliest adopters of badges, and have led innovation in this area since **2012**.

For example, the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) received funding in 2012 **to develop a virtual badge program for a library staff with skills related to the competencies for serving youth in libraries**. Project funding was provided by three of the key players in the digital badge landscape: HASTAC, the Mozilla Foundation, and the MacArthur Foundation.



ODBs in Libraries

- Several articles on the use of ODB in libraries.

- The Australian National University Library designed an INSIGNIA project to support research candidates in the development of key transferable skills around digital literacy and research integrity, using ODBs (Rutherford et al., 2015).
- Rodgers & Puterbaugh (2017) describe how ODBs are used in the library instructional programs in the Eastern University Library's.
- Use of ODBs for IL at Middlesex University and creating pre-arrival support for international students at Coventry University (Rose, n.d.).

- ODBs have mainly been used in libraries to develop IL
- O'Brien and Jacobson (2018) have published a book “Teaching with Digital Badges: Best Practices for Libraries” which provides examples of how librarians are using ODBs to enhance and invigorate the teaching and assessment of IL.



ODBs in Libraries

ODBs can be used in libraries in a variety of ways:

- **Learning and skills development:** Libraries can use ODBs to recognize and reward patrons for completing certain courses or achieving specific learning goals.

For example, a library might offer a badge for completing a course on basic computer skills or for mastering a specific language using language learning software.



ODBs in Libraries

- **Community engagement:** Libraries can use ODBs to recognize and encourage community engagement.

For example, a library might offer a badge for attending a certain number of library events, volunteering at the library, or participating in a community book club.



ODBs in Libraries

- **Professional development:** Libraries can use ODBs to recognize and encourage professional development among their staff.

For example, a library might offer a badge for completing a certain number of hours of continuing education or for mastering a new skill that is important for library work, such as data analysis or grant writing.



ODBs in Libraries

- **Gamification:** Libraries can use ODBs as part of a gamification strategy to encourage patrons to engage with the library and its resources.

For example, a library might offer badges for completing a scavenger hunt that requires patrons to find and interact with different parts of the library, or for participating in a social media challenge that encourages patrons to share their favorite books or library experiences online.



ODBs for Librarians

- People who are visiting heritage sites and experiencing a heritage may acquire ODBs which evidence their learning.
- [Badges project](#) promoted learning and aimed at providing meaningful evidence of the learning processes visitors experience when visiting heritage sites.
- Everyone who visited the heritage sites that were part of the program got a badge. If they went to a museum, park, or historic site where they could watch, listen, participate, and learn, they could earn the badge.

2019, the Yper Museum in Belgium won the first BADGES Award with their project that united children and their local culture.

A BADGES-App was created for the exhibition “200 Years of Bremen Town Musicians” in the Kreishaus Kassel to enrich the visit of the exhibition.



Conclusion

- Open digital badges are a powerful tool for recognizing skills, knowledge, and achievements, and can provide numerous advantages for learners, teachers, peers and potential employers.
- ODL can offer cultural heritage sites, galleries, libraries, archives and museums useful tools to support their visitor's learning and present librarians with new ways of engaging with patrons.
- By offering badges, libraries can create a sense of achievement and motivation for patrons, as well as encourage continued engagement with library resources and services.



References

- Gomez, D. (2022). The nature and need for informal learning. *Cross-cultural Research*, 34, 375-89.
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- Virkus, S. (2020). Re-designing and Co-creating Innovative Cultural Heritage Services Through Libraries https://www.tlu.ee/~sirvir/Re-designing_and_Co-creating_Innovative_Cultural_Heritage_Services_Through_Libraries_/index.html



Thank you for your attention!

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