BUILDING, VISUALIZING AND ACTIVATING SOCIAL CAPITAL: DIGITAL TOOLS FOR MAKING THE MOST OUT OF THE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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Overview

- Digital tools for building, visualizing activating social capital in the undergraduate research experience
  1. What is social capital
  2. Social capital in undergraduate research
  3. Digital tools for maximizing social capital
  4. Practical application of these tools

- What brought you to this session?
- What do you hope to get out of it?
Making Connections

• Throw the yarn to someone you know or make a connection with someone (not the person next to you).
• Hold the yarn tighter or looser depending on how well you know the person.
• Can we build connections through the entire group?
  • Is everyone connected? How?
  • Are there any groups in isolation?

Strength of Weak Ties

• What do you get out of strong relationships?
• What do you get out of weak connections?
• How do you build and maintain them?
Social Capital Theory

• Social connections that can be utilized to gain advantages or resources (Bourdieu, 1986)
• Social capital in college
  • College entrance and success
  • Persistence
  • Graduate education
  • Employment
• Samantha, a Human Communication Major studying fandom:
  “The biggest thing I have learned so far is the value of networking. Having scholarly capital means you have resources to call on when you need them. If I hadn’t met [Emily] at one of the Community conventions, I would never have used social media to get the word out about my survey... have a network of geeks to call on when the time comes to find subjects for future interviews and focus groups. These networks allow for my research to have a breadth and depth it wouldn’t have if I didn’t have them to use as resources.”

Activating Social Capital

• Social Capital in Undergraduate Research
  • Building
    • Making connections
  • Visualizing
    • Understanding what connections you have or do not have
  • Managing
    • Maintaining
    • Utilizing
Activating Social Capital Through Technology

- Social Capital in Undergraduate Research
  - Building
    - Mentor Relationship
      - Google Forms
  - ePortfolio
    - WordPress
    - Camtasia
  - Visualizing
    - Social Capital App
      - Google App
  - Managing
    - Social Capital App
      - Google App

Building Social Capital

- Mentor relationship
  - Purpose
    - Building a strong, enduring connection to someone in their field
    - Building connections through mentor to others in the field
    - Connection to knowledge about profession and graduate education
  - Technology
    - Google Forms to provide feedback to students on performance and development
Building Social Capital

- ePortfolio
  - Purpose
    - Use to build connections with potential mentors and employers
    - A managed online presence
  - Communicate:
    - Professional and individual persona
    - Research interests and experiences
  - Contribute:
    - To the broader community
    - To the disciplinary community

Building Social Capital

- ePortfolio
  - Technology
    - WordPress
    - Camtasia
    - Prezi
Social Juggling

- How do we support students in juggling their capital

Visualizing and Managing

- Social Capital App
  - Organize and visualize the social capital that students have
    - Roster
  - See areas where they need to develop capital
    - Map
  - Organize various sources of capital in the application to research opportunities and graduate school
    - Game Plan
      - For student
      - For mentors
Roster

Organize and visualize the social capital that students have

Graduate School and Other Applications

Research

Support

Other

Map

See areas where they need to develop capital
Game Plan

Organize various sources of capital in the application to research opportunities and graduate school

What else?

• How have you used technology to facilitate the development, maintenance or activation of social capital?
Implementation

• Creating and Managing Digital Identity
• ePortfolio
  • Training
  • Security
  • Resources
  • Technology

Implementation

• Social Capital App
  • Considerations for managing data
  • Making a Google App
  • Technical considerations
  • Privacy and permissions
Work Groups

• Questions on implementation?

• Workshop
• ePortfolio
  • Natasha
• Social Capital App
  • Colin