

The annual Open EdTech Summit brings together forty of the world's top minds to engage in dialog about future directions for education globally. Past events have considered how educational practice is changing, and how the growth of the network has impacted learning and students. Each Open EdTech Summit is designed around a set of themes; the discussions that take place on these are captured and used to inform a communiqué to the field that is the main outcome of the summit.

Open EdTech 2009

In 2008, the attendees of the Open EdTech Summit focused on the essential question, "What does it mean to be educated in the 21st Century?" Their discussions were the basis of a monograph on the topic, and laid the foundation for the 2009 summit, which will explore ways to realize that vision and to impact educational practice in the near term future.

The 2008 Report identified four essential attributes of an educational system that is capable of preparing students to thrive in today's world:

- 1) access to high-quality learning must be open to all;
- 2) faculty must first and foremost serve as mentors to help students in choice-making;
- 3) learning processes, wherever they are found, must be personalized to learner needs; and
- 4) technology can and should be used whenever possible to increase access and extend the learning community.

In 2009, the forty thought leaders that have been invited will examine how these attributes can be realized in practice, and will outline a call to action aimed at educational leaders worldwide. This call will comprise a clear answer to the overall question that frames the 2009 summit: How should the educational framework adapt to incorporate these critical characteristics into practice?

The discussions will focus around four broadly related themes, each envisioned as a doorway to understanding what changes need to take place to ensure we are meeting the needs of today's learners. Under each theme, summit attendees will be asked to collectively identify and endorse concrete action steps that educational systems must take in the near future to move educational practice in the directions needed. These themes are:

- Access to high-quality education for all, and the role of open content in providing such access.
- Informal learning, and the role of the mentor in choice making.
- Personalized learning, and learning standards that work across borders.
- Applications of digital video, mobile devices, and the global network.

The first three of these stem directly from the attributes identified in 2008; the last theme will consider examples of the fourth attribute, technology. Both digital video and mobile technologies are commonly accessible to huge populations worldwide despite local variances in infrastructure, and are uniquely suited to this conversation.

Living in a world of constant change is having profound impacts on society, and by extension, on the educational systems that support them. Last November, Open EdTech convened an extraordinary group of thinkers from across the global educational spectrum; this year the work continues with the goal of influencing critical practices via a communiqué outlining a clear call to action.

The summit will take place in the historically vital Gothic Quarter of Barcelona, a city clearly at the forefront of technology and education, with a rich tradition for both dating back hundreds of years. Attendees will find the setting as uniquely stimulating as the ideas before them.