Badging for Learning
Kristin Fontichiaro
Richardson ISD ~ 11.1.2012 ~ 11am – noon
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So, didja hear the one about the Girl Scout sash, NASA, backwards design, and a badger?

Boy, I'm totally gonna want these slides: http://bit.ly/fontblog

"Massive Disruption"

Formal

Non-credentialed

Learning Is Everywhere

Informal

Credentialed

How do people showcase skills beyond a resume, transcript, or CV?

EMPIRE THEATRES

NOW HIRING
VAMPIRE ASSISTANT 9 25

How do they mark their growth when they're *not* job-hunting but still need to be accountable for their development?

Continuing Professional Education Credits only measure whether or not you show up.

And no offense, but they don't have a great rep, either.

What's A Badge?

- A badge is … "a validated indicator of accomplishment, skill, quality or interest" (http://dmlcompetition.net/Competition/4/badges-about.php)
- A microcredential
- A way to think differently about how we show what we know
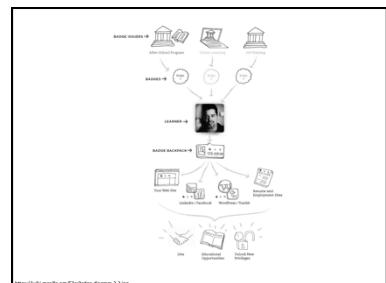
Badging for Scouts has decades of history behind it.

Badging for learning is in its infancy.

Measuring Workload

Schools and Universities
- Carnegie Credits
- Seat Hours
- Course Credits
- Codified Rules
- Accredited institutions

Badges
- Agnostic
- Anybody can issue
- No formal teacher certification or teacher formal education levels needed
- Do not represent a standard number of seat hours, work hours, or effort required

BADGES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

DIGITAL MEDIA + LEARNING competition 4

http://dmlcompetition.net/Competition/4/teachers.php

Systemically, Why Should You Care?

- Innovation currently working from outside in

- Formal rules of learning are shifting
  - Charter Schools and Academies
  - How Teachers/Librarians Show Impact and Growth

3 Ways to Think About Badges for PD

Tracking
Motivation
Credential/ Evidence of Skill
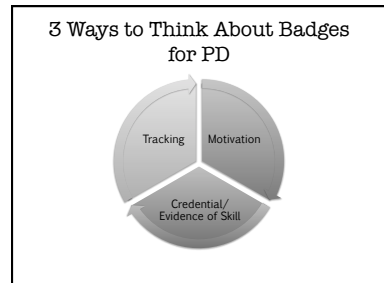
Motivation

- Fun

- Healthy self, peer, and departmental competition

- Calls up nostalgic memories of scouting and the thrill of the challenge

- Visual representation of growth

Credential/Evidence of Skill

- What skills do I have?

- How much growth have I made this year?

- What do I know how to do at the end of the year that I didn't at the beginning?

- What did I actually *learn*? (Or did I just show up and nod?)

- What kind of effort am I making? Am I choosing learning activities that make me comfortable or make me grow?

- How can I portray who I am beyond my transcript or job title?

Tracking

- What exactly did we do this year????

- How can I represent and reflect upon that learning?

- How can I gather evidence of learning in one place?

How Could I Use Badging In My Job?

- As a parallel to formal grading systems
- To "micro-measure" student or teacher skills that would otherwise go unrecognized
- To build student or educator portfolios that showcase new skills
- To gather evidence from forthcoming PD sessions and webinars as badging grants mature in 2013
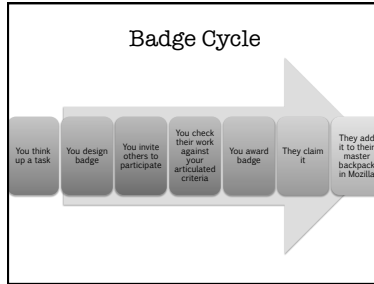
Badge Cycle

Badge Cycle

Introducing http://badg.us

(Open source; from my home state of Michigan)

You Think Up a Task

- What do I want people to be able to do?
- What information/activities do they need in order to be able do it?
- How will they show that they did it?

You Design a Badge

- Where will people redeem a badge?
- Where will they get the steps to follow?
- What evidence do they need to show
- How will they share that evidence with you?
- What will you use for your badge icon?

Model Creative Commons!

http://flickrcc.bluemountains.net

Edit it in PicMonkey.com

Save it, and upload at http://badg.us

You Invite Others to Participate...

You Check Their Evidence

- In our case, "Are you curious?"
- In other cases:
  – Saw a video of their work
  – Received a document
  – Saw their work in person

You Award the Badge

- Hey, guys! You just earned a badge!
- Everybody should get one sticker
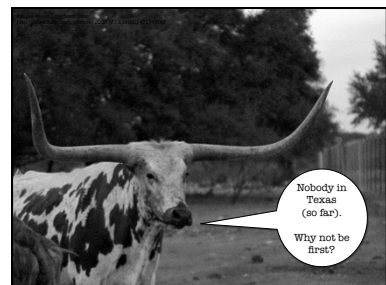- Each has been issued a unique code

They Claim It

When They Click on Their Profile…

Then click on the badge they just earned…

Optional: OpenBadges.org

OpenBadges.org: Home Base for All Badges Earned Anywhere

And did you notice?

Nobody in Texas (so far).

Why not be first?

Caveats

- Badges are microcredentials, not auto-rewards.
- They should be **earned**.
- Early badges can be easy to earn to get people familiar with them. Later ones should add more challenge or have more paucity.
- Don't exchange them for seat time or "just showing up." (It's tempting, but that's just an exchange of vocab, not a change in practice.)

Bottom Line:
Badges can open up important conversations about who, how, and what we assess.

Some Recommended Reading

- Austic, Greg. "Badging at Ann Arbor Maker Faire," http://austiclabs.com/wordpress/badging-at-ann-arbor-maker-faire/ (great links at bottom to other articles of interest)
- Belshaw, Doug. "Gaining Some Perspective on Badges for Lifelong Learning," http://dmlcentral.net/blog/doug-belshaw/gaining-some-perspective-badges-lifelong-learning
- Davidson, Cathy. "Could Badges for Learning Be Our Tipping Point?" http://hastac.org/blogs/cathy-davidson/2011/11/14/could-badges-lifelong-learning-be-our-tipping-point
- Hickey, Daniel. "Some Things About Assessment that Badge Developers Might Find Helpful," http://remediatingassessment.blogspot.com/2012/03/some-things-about-assessment-that-badge.html
- Jenkins, Henry. "How to Earn Your Skeptic Badge," http://henryjenkins.org/2012/03/how_to_earn_your_skeptic_badge.html
- Karey, Kevin. "We Do, In Fact, Need Some (Non-Stinking) Badges." http://chronicle.com/blogs/brainstorm/we-do-in-fact-need-some-non-stinking-badges/35447
- Mozilla Open Badges, Home Page. http://openbadges.org/en-US/
- Wiley, David. "Badges are Not Assessments," http://opencontent.org/blog/archives/2393

Thanks to …

- Greg Austic, AusticLabs.com
- Rachel Goldberg, East MS, Plymouth, MI, and the Michigan Makers students
- Shauna Masura, Terence O'Neill, Samantha Roslund, Victoria Lungu, and Sharona Ginsberg, Jessica Schmidt, Ellen Gustafson, Caroline Mossing, and Rebecca Moir, early badgers and Michigan Makers at the University of Michigan School of Information
- Les Orchard, http://badg.us
- Emily Puckett Rogers, Open Michigan, University of Michigan

Questions?

font@umich.edu
@activelearning

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