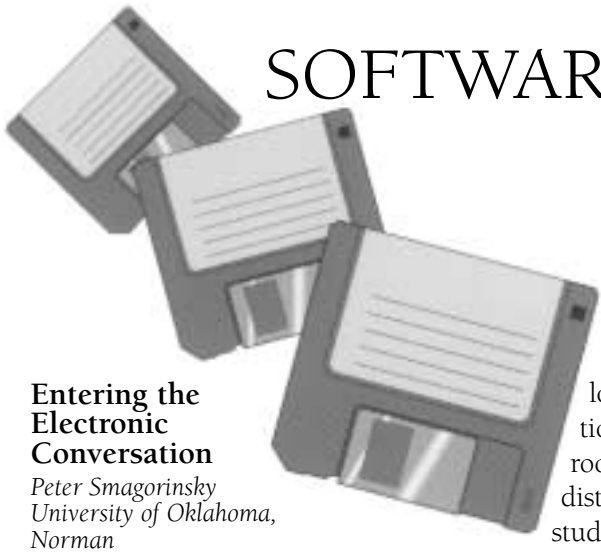
SOFTWARE



Entering the Electronic Conversation

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In *Curriculum as Conversation: Transforming Traditions of Teaching and Learning* (1996, Chicago: University of Chicago Press), Arthur Applebee argues that knowledge is something we develop and grasp through our actions. In particular, he believes that "conversation" is a critical medium for developing new understanding, especially when that conversation is embedded in historical ways of thinking and doing. We learn about particular ways of acting —whether learning investment strategies, calf-roping techniques, writing pedagogies, or other "knowledge-in-action"—through participation in ongoing conversations about things that matter, and doing so within traditions that structure particular ways of thinking. To Applebee, a school curriculum needs to be built around the development of culturally significant domains for conversation through which students may grasp appropriate conceptual knowledge.

Applebee's argument applies to virtually any domain, any traditional way of thinking and acting: development comes through participation in cultural activity, with talk serving as an essential activity in most cultures. Yet, oddly enough, the domain of teaching often provides limited opportunities for participation in conversations that matter. Many teachers talk about being lonely and working in isolation, of closing the classroom door to shut out the distractions that interfere with student learning. If Applebee is right, then teachers as well as students ought to have opportunities to participate in conversations that matter to them, that serve their developmental needs.

USING LISTSERVS

One way I've found to involve myself in conversations that matter is through my participation in electronic mail listservs. A listserv is an electronic forum that allows any e-mail subscriber anywhere on the planet to join a conversation of mutual interest.

Here's how it works: A large computer (for our purposes, usually one that serves a large university) sets up a listserv, which is a way of distributing the same message to a large group of people. Anyone who wants may "subscribe" to the listserv usually at no cost. A subscriber might send a message to the listserv; the listserv distributes it to all subscribers. Any subscriber can respond, which in turn gets distributed to the network. Conversations therefore spring up around whatever topics the subscribers feel are worth talking about.

I've found that listserv discussions are very valuable in my own work, allowing me to talk over ideas with people who can help me sharpen and direct my thinking. Most teachers I know who subscribe to networks have picked up teaching ideas, located resources, made friends, and otherwise expanded the radius of their networks to encompass the globe.

What follows is a list of listservs that I've collected from the Internet, organized by categories. I've only personally sampled a few and so can't vouch for them firsthand; what you might do is try one or two and see if you like them. If not, you can unsubscribe and try a new one—as you'll see there are plenty to choose from. And keep in mind that these are only educational lists. There are listserv discussions on about any topic, from gerbils to Generation X. For the master list, send a message to listserv@bitnic.bitnet and send a message consisting of a single word: global. But beware, this list of lists is enormous and will take a long time to download.

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

To subscribe to a network you typically:

a) send a message to: listserv@universityname.edu
b) leave the subject line of your message blank
c) in the body of your message, type: subscribe listname Your Name

There are variations on this basic procedure as you'll see. If you're interested in subscribing to a list, follow the instructions given. If that doesn't work, try one or more of the variations you'll see in the following instructions.

When available, World Wide Web (WWW) sites are listed at the end of sections. These are not discussion lists, but home pages that you can visit using Netscape or other web browser software. The following are lists and subscription information.

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ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS/READING TEACHERS

ncte-talk (English teachers who are members of NCTE)
send a message to:
listproc@itc.org
type: subscribe ncte-talk
Your Name

english-teachers (English teachers who are not members of NCTE)
send a message to: majordomo
@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu
type: subscribe English-teachers
your@email.address

ncte-ee (NCTE list for *English Education*)
send a message to:
listserv@grumpy.ncte.org
type: subscribe ncte-ee
Your Name

OCTE (Oklahoma Council of Teachers of English)
send a message to:
listserv@uoknor.edu
type: subscribe octe Your Name

ptissues
send a message to: listserv@
miamiu.acs.muohio.edu
type: subscribe ptissues
Your Name

pretext (announcements for writing center directors)
send a message to: listserv@
miamiu.muohio.edu
type: subscribe pretext
Your Name

reinvw (discussions with composition book authors about their books)
send a message to: listserv
@miamiu.muohio.edu
type: subscribe reinvw
Your Name

litnet (literature)
send a message to:
listserv@itc.org
type: subscribe litnet Your Name

tawl (whole language)
send a message to: listserv@
arizona.edu
type: subscribe tawl Your Name

NRC (National Reading Conference—the research-oriented organization within the International Reading Association)
send a message to:
atbag@asuvm.inre.asu.edu
type: request to subscribe. **Note:** This is Barbara Guzzetti's address. She's the host of the network and will add you to the list if you are an NRC member.

WWW Site

NCTE: www.ncte.org

RESEARCH APPROACHES

xtar (teacher research)
send a message to:
listserv@lester.appstate.edu
type: subscribe xtar Your Name

aera-d (measurement and research methodology)
send a message to:
listserv@asuvm.inre.asu.edu
type: subscribe aera-d

WWW Sites

NCTE Assembly for Research:
www.uiowa.edu/~resassem
American Educational Research Association:
www.ed.asu.edu/aera/

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ISSUES IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

xmca (for subscribers and friends of *Mind, Culture, and Activity,* an academic journal devoted to sociocultural psychology)
send a message to: xmca-request
@weber.ucsd.edu
type: subscribe

aera-g (social context of education)
send a message to:
listserv@asuvm.inre.asu.edu
type: subscribe aera-g

mult-cul (multicultural education)
send a message to: listserv
@ubvm.cc.buffalo.edu
type: sub Mult-Cul Your Name

mult-ed (multicultural education)
send a message to:
listproc@gmu.edu
type: subscribe mult-ed
Your Name

nihongo (Japanese language, culture, and work with computers)
send a message to:
listserv@mitvma.mit.edu
type: subscribe nihongo
Your Name

africa-l (Pan-African forum)
send a message to:
listserv@brufmg.bitnet
type: subscribe africa-l
Your Name

aera-mi (research-oriented minority issues)
send a message to:
listserv@unb.ca
type: sub aera-mi Your Name

WWW Site

Australian teachers and students:
www.gil.com.au./ozkidz/

TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Bilingual (bilingual education)
send a message to:
majordomo@ied.edu.hk
type: subscribe bilingual

CTESL-L (Christian teachers of second languages)
send a message to:
mail-server@rhesys.mb.ca
type: subscribe ctesl-l

ESLCC (English as a Second Language in Community Colleges)
send a message to: eslcc-request
@hcc.hawaii.edu
type: subscribe eslcc

GLESOL-L (gay, lesbian, bisexual teachers of speakers of other languages)
send a message to:
mailserv@uni.edu
type: subscribe glesol-l

Linguist
send a message to:
listserv@tamvmi.tamu.edu
type: subscribe linguist
Your Name

SLART-L (second language acquisition, research, and teaching)
send a message to: listserv@cunyvm.cuny.edu
type: sub slart-l Your Name

flasc-l (directors of foreign language programs)
send a message to: listserv@uci.edu
type: subscribe flasc-l Your Name

flac (foreign languages across the curriculum)
send a message to: listserv@brownvm.bitnet
type: subscribe flac-l Your Name

tesl-l (teachers of English as a second language)
send a message to: listserv@cunyvm.cuny.edu
type: subscribe tesl-l Your Name

bilingue-L (bilingual elementary education)
send a message to: listserv@reynolds.k12.or.us
type: subscribe bilingue-L Your Name

TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION

ETCC-L (educational technology co-ordinating commitee)
send a message to: listserv@humberc.on.ca
type: subscribe etcc-L Your Name

ECID-L (educational computing and instructional development)
send a message to: listserv@vm.cc.purdue.edu
type: subscribe ecid-L Your Name

ACSOFT-L (academic software development)
send a message to: listserv@wuvmd.wustl.edu
type: subscribe acsoft-L Your Name

INCLASS (using the Internet in the classroom)
send a message to: listserv@schoolnet.carleton.ca
type: subscribe inclass Your Name

techeval (computers in language and literary study)
send a message to: listserv@miamiu.muohio.edu
type: subscribe techeval Your Name

llti (language learning and technology)
send a message to: listserv@cartcms1.bitnet
type: subscribe llti Your Name

ednet (education and networking)
send a message to: listproc@lists.umass.edu
type: subscribe ednet Your Name

edtech (education and technology)
send a message to: listserv@msu.edu
type: subscribe edtech Your Name

ednet-L (electronic networking)
send a message to: listserv@uhccvm.uhcc.hawaii.edu
type: sub ednet-l Your Name

CoSN (consortium for school networking)
send a message to: listproc@yukon.cren.org
type: subscribe cosndisc Your Name

edupage (summary of news items about information technology)
send a message to: listproc@educom.unc.edu
type: subscribe edupage Your Name

iecc-discussion (discussion concerning intercultural e-mail classrooms)
send a message to: iecc-discussion-request@stolaf.edu
type: subscribe

iecc-k–12 (teachers seeking partner classrooms for international and cross-cultural e-mail exchanges)
send a message to: iecc-request@stolaf.edu
type: subscribe

iecc-projects (teachers discussing classroom projects that involve international or cross-cultural e-mail)
send a message to: iecc-projects-request@stolaf.edu
type: subscribe

intcoled (teachers who use the Internet to promote international understanding through collaborative learning)
send a message to: listserv@Ist01.ferris.edu
type: sub intcoled

amtec (media and technology in education)
send a message to: mailserv@camosum.bc.ca
type: subscribe amtec Your Name

dres-L (discussion of on-line educational resources)
send a message to: listserv@umbvm1.bitnet
type: subscribe dres-L Your Name

euitlist (educational uses of information technology)
send a message to: euitlist@bitnic.educom.edu
type: subscribe euitlist Your Name

itte (discussion on information technology and teacher education)
send a message to: listserv@deakin.oz.au
type: subscribe itte Your Name

sigtel-L (telecommunications in education)
send a message to: listserv@unmvma.unm.edu
type: subscribe sigtel-L Your Name

superk12 (Internet and computers in k–12 schools)
send a message to: listserv@suvm.syr.edu
type: subscribe superk12 Your Name

wwwedu (World Wide Web in education)
send a message to: listproc@kudzu.cnidr.org

type: subscribe wwwedu
Your Name

asat-eva (distance learning)
send a message to:
listserv@unlvm.unl.edu
type: subscribe asat-eva
Your Name

SPECIFIC THEORISTS

peirce-L (semiotic theory based on Charles Sanders Peirce)
send a message to:
listserv@ttuvmi.ttu.edu
type: subscribe peirce-L
Your Name

dewey-L (progressive education based on John Dewey)
send a message to:
listserv@vm.sc.edu
type: subscribe dewey-L
Your Name

bourdieu@jefferson.village.virginia.edu (Pierre Bourdieu, professor of sociology at the College de France and writer on sociology, politics, anthropology, linguistics, and literature)
send a message to: bourdieu-request@jefferson.village.virginia.edu
type: subscribe bourdieu
Your Name

marxism2@jefferson.village.virginia.edu (Karl Marx)
send a message to:
marxism2-request@jefferson.village.virginia.edu
type: subscribe marxism2
Your Name

bakhtin-dialogism@jefferson.village.virginia.edu
(Mikhail Bakhtin)
send a message to: bakhtin-dialogism-request@jefferson.village.virginia.edu
type: subscribe bakhtin-dialogism Your Name

WWW Sites

Lev S. Vygotsky (cultural-historical psychologist):

www.umich.edu/~edpsych/Boyle/vygotsky.html

www.massey.ac.nz/~ALock/virtual/project2.htm

gwis2.circ.gwu.edu/%7Ekearsley/vygotsky.html

www.ecel.uwa.edu.au/~jhippisl/vygotsky

forum.swarthmore.edu/mathed/vygotsky.html

www.glasnet.ru/~vega/vygotsky/index.html

M. M. Bakhtin (Literary critic and philosopher)

www.shef.ac.uk/uni/academic/A-C/bakhtin/bakhtin.html

TEACHER EDUCATION

aera-k (teaching and teacher education)
send a message to:
listserv@asuvm.inre.asu.edu
type: subscribe aera-k

bee-net (beginning English educators)
send a message to:
listserv@titan.sfasu.edu
type: subscribe bee-net
Your Name

TEACHING IDEAS AND LESSONS

newsletter (a collection of ideas)
send a message to:
majordomo@teachnet.edu
type: subscribe newsletter
your@email.address

postings (ideas posted by subscribers)
send a message to:
majordomo@teachnet.edu
type: subscribe postings
your@email.address

postings-digest (a digest of postings)
send a message to:
majordomo@teachnet.edu
type: subscribe postings-digest
your@email.address

hilites (classroom-based collaborative learning projects)
send a message to:
majordomo@gsn.org
type: subscribe hilites
Your Name

net-happenings (list that provides k–12 updates from the Internet)
send a message to:
majordomo@is.internic.net
type: subscribe net-happenings

WWW Sites

www.ed.asu.edu/coe/links/lessons.html

www.howtolearn.com

www.seattleu.edu/~bpatt/homepage.html#teanch

www.zia.com/educate

www.wentworth.com/sunsite.unc.edu/cisco/schoolhouse.html

www.nwrel.org/school_house/edweb.cnidr.org:90/k12.html

www.webcom.com/eyecat/Ed-Forum/www.teachnet.com

members.aol.com/jr270701/reedhome.htm

EDUCATIONAL POLICY

aera-a (administration)
send a message to:
listserv@asuvm.inre.asu.edu
type: subscribe aera-a

EPAA (the Educational Policy Analysis Archives, which distributes articles that deal with educational policy (e.g., the effects of competition on school systems))
send a message to:
listserv@asu.edu
type: sub EPAA Your Name

rre-L (restructuring public education)
send a message to: listserv@uhccvm.uhcc.hawaii.edu
type: sub rre-L Your Name

newedu-L (new paradigms in education, explores the ways in which we educate)
send a message to: listserv@uhccvm.uhcc.hawaii.edu
type: subscribe

bgedu-L (school reform)
send a message to: bgedu-L@ukcc.uky.edu
type: subscribe bgedu-L
Your Name