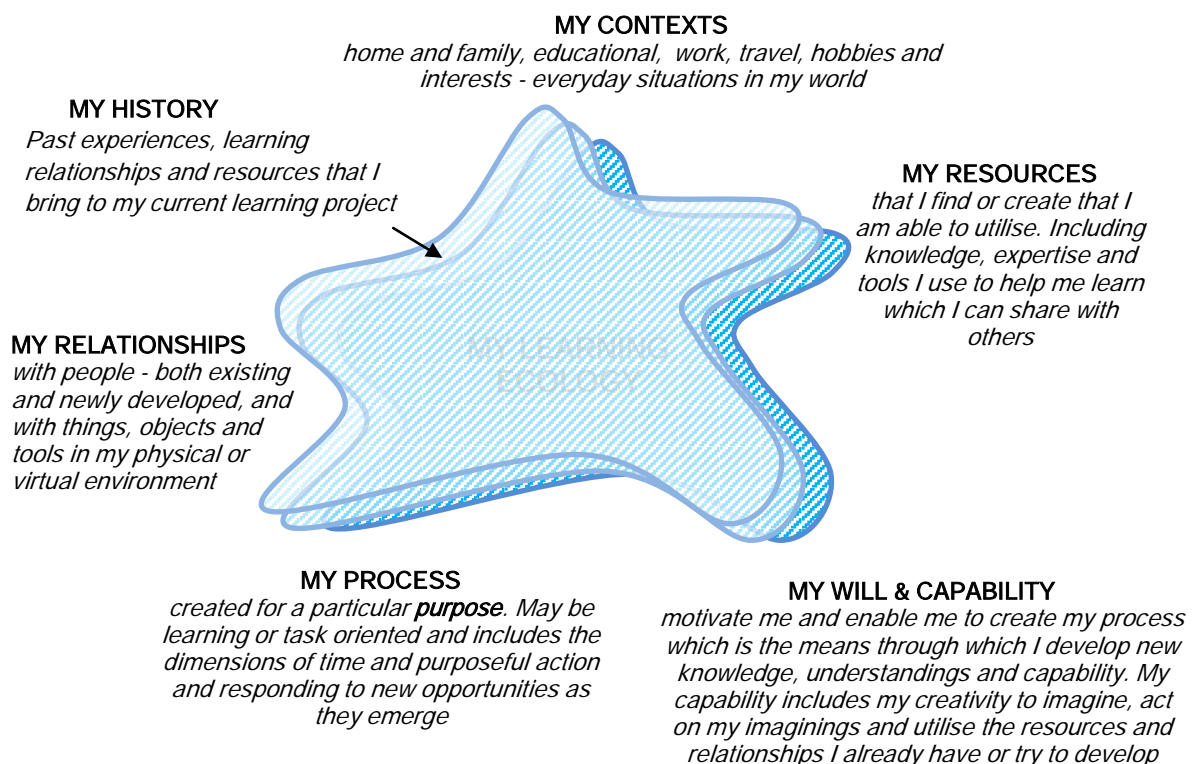


The Ecology of Development

Norman Jackson, Founder Lifewide Education

An individual's learning ecology comprises their processes and contexts, relationships, networks, interactions and activities that provides them with opportunities and resources for learning, development and achievement. Organised educational settings provide ecologies for learning into which learners fit themselves but outside formal education settings self-created learning ecologies are essential to the way we learn and develop in work, family and other social settings. The ability to create our own processes for learning and development is perhaps the most important capability we need for sustaining ourselves in a complex, ever changing and often disruptive world.

Figure 1 Key components of an individual's learning ecology (Jackson 2013b:2)



Our learning ecologies are the means by which we connect and integrate our past and current experiences and learning. They embrace all the physical and virtual places and spaces we inhabit and the learning and the meaning we gain from the contexts and situations that constitute our lives. Our learning ecologies are the product of both imagination and reason and they are the vehicle for our creative thoughts and actions. They are one of our most important sites for creativity and they enable us to develop ourselves personally and professionally in all aspects of our lives.

POWERPOINT SLIDES <http://www.normanjackson.co.uk/kingston.html>

References

- Jackson, N. J. (2013a) The Concept of Learning Ecologies, in N. J. Jackson and G.B. Cooper (eds) *Lifewide Learning, Education and Personal Development E-book* Chapter A5 available on-line at <http://www.lifewideebook.co.uk/conceptual.html>
- Jackson, N. J. (2013b) Learning Ecology Narratives, in N. J. Jackson and G. B. Cooper (eds) *Lifewide Learning, Education and Personal Development E-book* Chapter C4 available on line at: <http://www.lifewideebook.co.uk/research.html>

Ecology of Professional & Educational Development Activity

CHALLENGE: to share experiences of how we build our own ecologies to develop ourselves in our own professional or educational contexts

INDIVIDUAL TASK - 15 MINS

1 Think about a developmental project you have undertaken in the last two years. and create a visual representation of your learning ecology

- explain what you were trying to achieve and why
- describe the process you created or got involved in to develop yourself
- identify what you did to develop/achieve, when you did them (timeline), where you did them (contexts) and who was involved (people)
- summarise the most important achievements, learning and personal development

IN PAIRS 15 MINS (preferably people you don't know very well)

- share and discuss your narratives of learning, development and achievement
- using the ecology metaphor - identify three important characteristics that can be recognised in your developmental processes.

WHOLE GROUP 10MINS

- share and illustrate common characteristics of professional learning ecologies

Creativity in Development



What is the role of creativity in an individual's developmental processes? An open learning process for people who are interested in sharing their insights
<http://www.creativityindevelopment.co.uk/>

Lifewide Education



<http://lifewideeducation.co.uk/>

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