

Curriculum Development *& public libraries*

how it's going and where it's going...

Jessamyn West
<librarian.net/talks/mla11>

Thursday, April 28, 2011

I was asked to come here to talk somewhat about the technology instruction classes I've been teaching and specifically what we're doing in terms of developing curricula. We're not quite at the place where we're rolling out statewide technology training [though I'd love that] but we're making inroads into defining the problem and designing solutions.

Before we start...

- ▶ I am a superfan
- ▶ I am unofficial
- ▶ This is not my area of expertise
- ▶ Vermont is not a hotbed of technology instruction or understanding



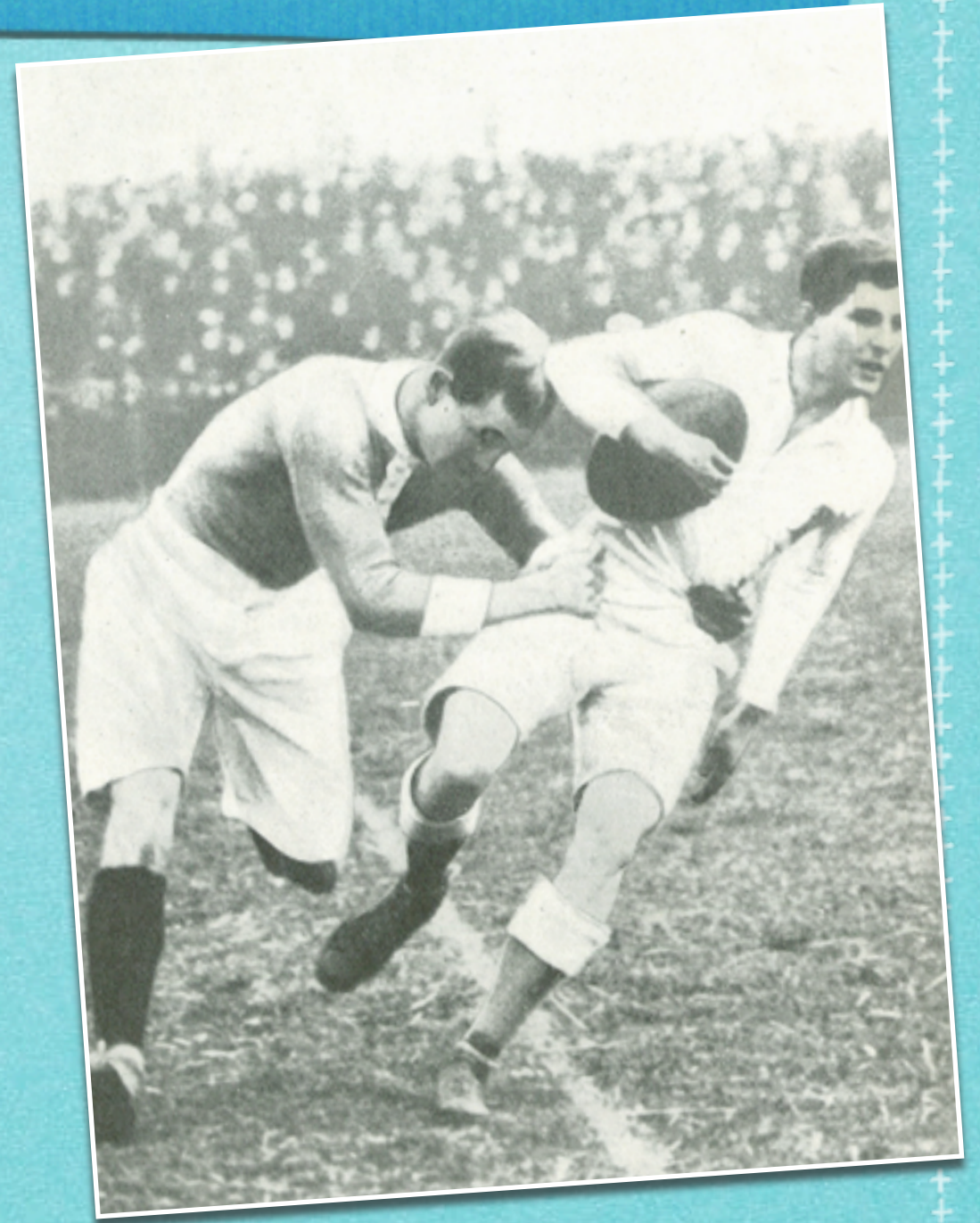
The big problem...

- ▶ Experts are scarce
- ▶ Experts are expensive
- ▶ Experts are not needed on the ground, actually



Relatedly...

- ▶ We're not as good at sharing as maybe we should be.
- ▶ We're not as good at sharing as we think we are.
- ▶ We don't use sharing technologies as much as I think we should.



Good Sites for Parents to Learn More

SafeKids/SafeTeens - family guides for making the Internet fun, safe and productive for kids of all ages
<http://www.safekids.com/> and
<http://www.safeteens.com/>

PBS Kids - get a "web license" and take an online safety test
<http://pbskids.org/license/>

WiredTeens - safety tips for older teens about IM and
<http://www.wiredteens.org/>

MySpace Safety Tips
<http://collect.myspace.com/misc/safetytips.html>

Good Sites for Kids and Teens to Explore

Yahooligans - simple safe search engine for kids
<http://yahooligans.yahoo.com/>

PBSKids - games, music and stories
<http://pbskids.org/>

Internet Public Library Teen Division
<http://www.ipl.org/div/teen/>

Be Social, Be Safe - Jessamyn West



Randolph Technical Career Center



Randolph Technical Career Center
17 Forest St.
Randolph, VT 05060
Phone: (802) 728-4241
Fax: (802) 728-9596
Contact: Ruth Durkee
Orange County
Website: www.randolphtech.org
See all listings from this center on Vtate.org

The mission of the Randolph Technical Career Center is to provide technical career preparation, with opportunities for academic and social growth for area youth and adults. Located in Randolph, Vermont, RTCC serves towns that send students to Randolph Union High School, Whitcomb Jr/Sr High School, Chelsea High School, Rochester High School, Williamstown Middle/High School, South Royalton High School, and Northfield Middle/High School. The Randolph Technical Career Center is committed to maintaining a learning environment free from discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or sexual orientation.



For more information about classes at this center, call today!

802.728.4241

7pm Castleton eVT Public 5:30pm Ludlow - Evaluati

Ludlow - Evaluating Info on the Web Workshop

When Thu, March 31, 5:30pm – 6:00pm
Where Fletcher Memorial Library, Ludlow ([map](#))
Description Is there a reliable way to distinguish on the Web between an authoritative scientific study and a tenth-grade student's science project? Can you trust the information in a Wikipedia article? This workshop presents a variety of tools for finding information on the Web and techniques for assessing its validity.

[more details»](#) [copy to my calendar»](#)

Sort of ad hoc...

- ▶ Manageably sized
- ▶ Clear goals
- ▶ As fun as possible
- ▶ "scaffolding"



Grids for classes

Courses →	110	120	210	220	230	240	250	255	
Skills ↓									
General skills									
Computer skills									
Field skills									
Lab skills									
Interpretive skills									

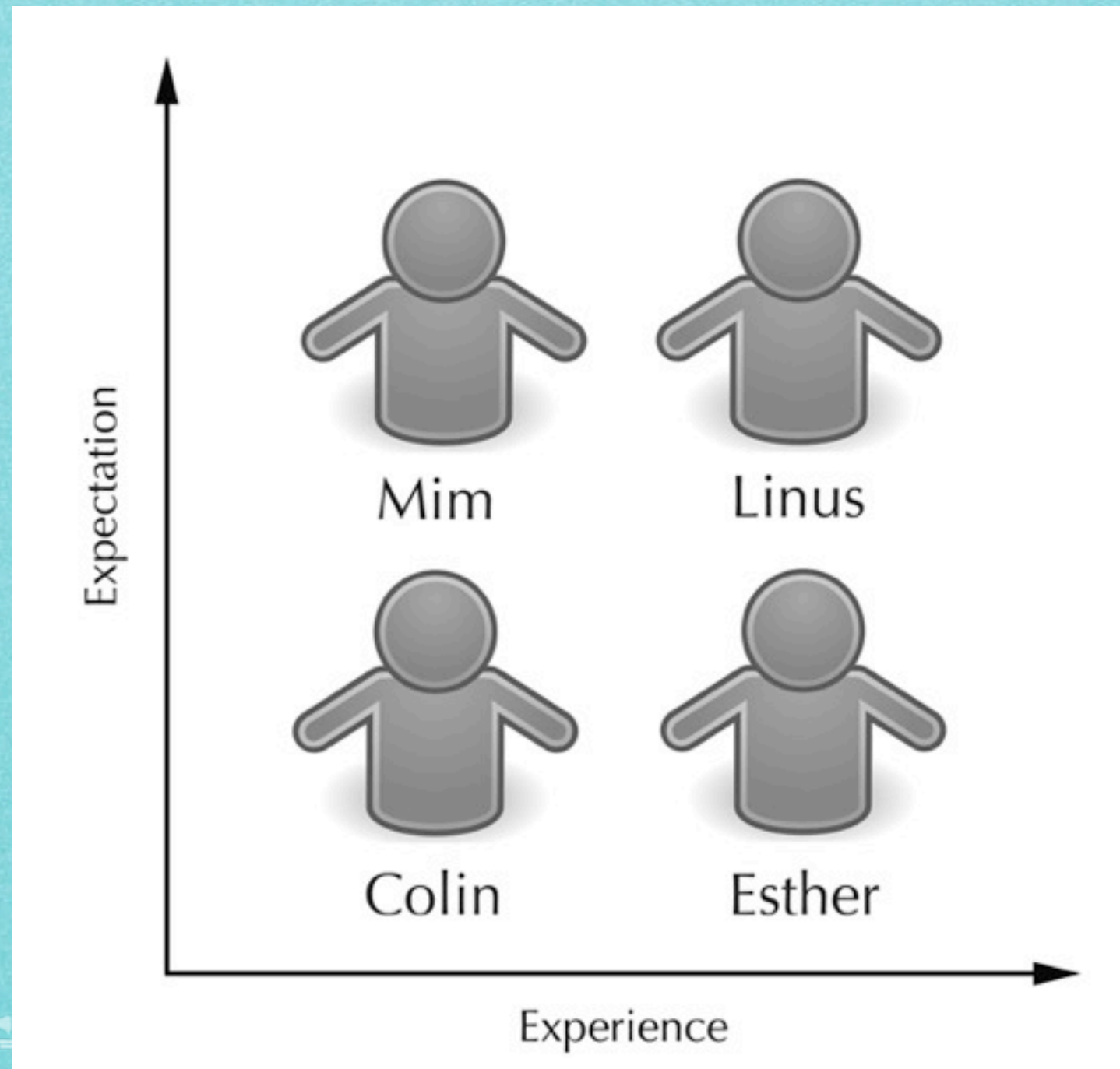
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<http://serc.carleton.edu/departments/programs/matrix.html>

<http://fcit.usf.edu/matrix/index.html>

<http://fcit.usf.edu/matrix/download/indicators.pdf>

General patrons



And specific patrons



Kevin - 16

- no computer at home
- does homework at library
- uses ipod & dig. audiobooks
- social at the library

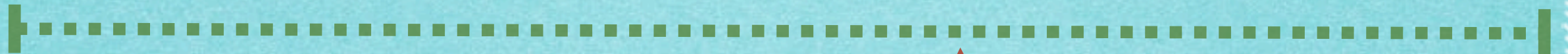
Before classes start...

- ▶ Set expectations
- ▶ Know your audience
- ▶ "Crab count"



never used
a mouse

fully comfortable
with a mouse

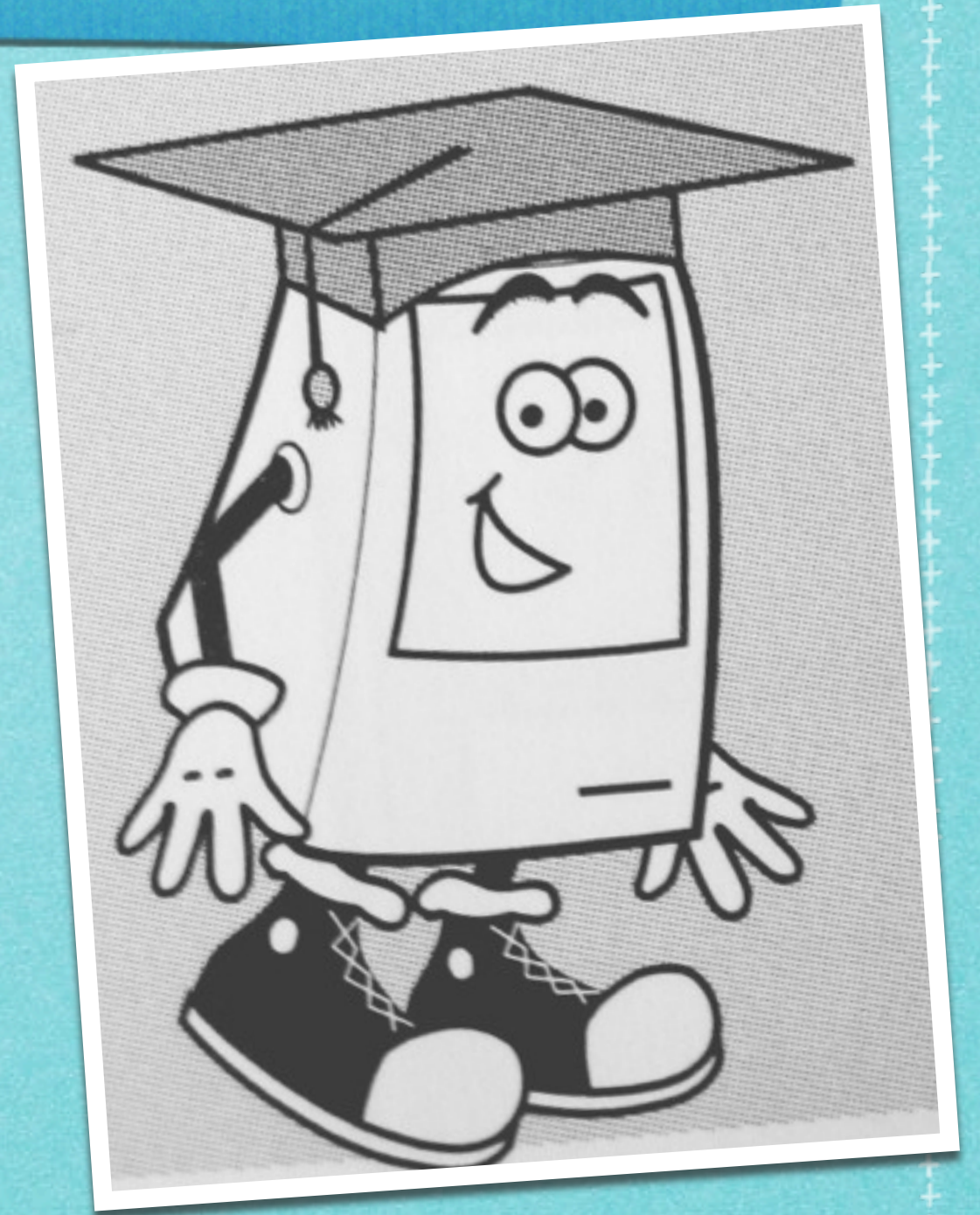


↑
iTunes class

pre-requisites
help everyone

Adult new learners...

- ▶ Offline for a reason, need encouragement.
- ▶ Need culture as well as skills.
- ▶ Need successes.



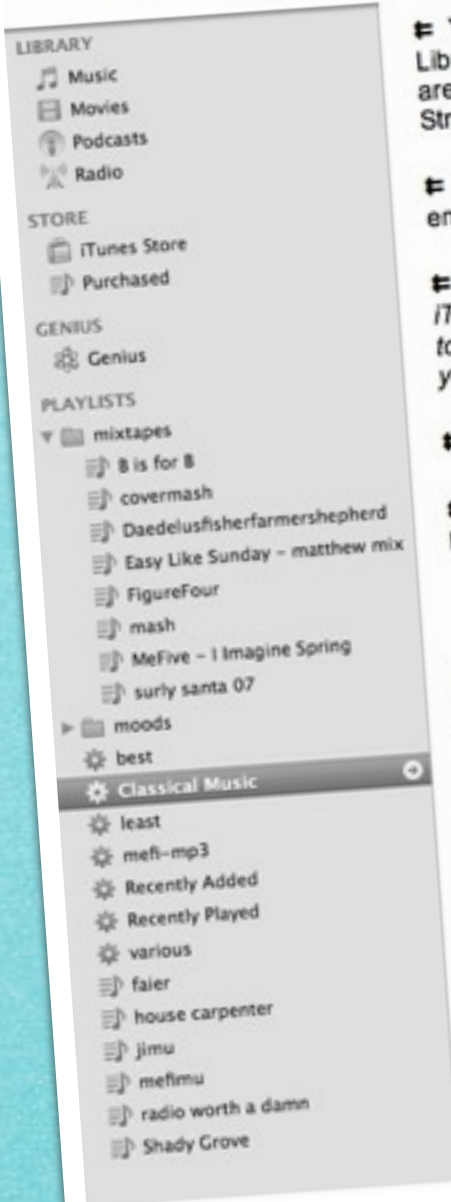
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We are past the "if we build it, they will come" stage of technology instruction. We need to set up classes so that reluctant learners can succeed. This means watching our vocab, designing with compassion and being responsive to feedback.

During classes...

- ▶ Consistent handouts
- ▶ Lots of screenshots
- ▶ Lots of vocab
- ▶ Refresh and quiz

Looking at the iTunes Sidebar



The screenshot shows the iTunes sidebar with the following sections:

- LIBRARY**
 - Music
 - Movies
 - Podcasts
 - Radio
- STORE**
 - iTunes Store
 - Purchased
- GENIUS**
 - Genius
- PLAYLISTS**
 - mixtapes
 - B is for B
 - covermash
 - Daedulusfisherfarmershepherd
 - Easy Like Sunday - matthew mix
 - FigureFour
 - mash
 - MeFive - I Imagine Spring
 - surly santa 07
 - moods
 - best
 - Classical Music (highlighted)
 - least
 - mefi-mp3
 - Recently Added
 - Recently Played
 - various
 - faier
 - house carpenter
 - jimu
 - mefimu
 - radio worth a damn
 - Shady Grove

Key features and settings explained:

- ☛ You can determine what is visible in the Library in the preferences section. Podcasts are treated differently from other audio files. Streaming radio is another different thing.
- ☛ You can change parental settings to enable or disable the store.
- ☛ "The Genius Mixes feature searches your iTunes library to find songs that go great together, then organizes them into mixes you'll love."
- ☛ You can sort playlists into folders.
- ☛ Playlists are home made set lists. They can be as long or short as you want them to be.
- ☛ The cog indicates a "smart playlist" which builds itself automatically.
- ☛ The dark line shows what is playing now.
- ☛ Some smart playlists come pre-programmed. You can delete these if you want.
- ☛ These playlists are groups by artist name, song title, songs from a certain person, songs from a certain podcast, music I like, cover songs of a favorite song.

After classes...

- ▶ Evaluate, evaluate, evaluate!
- ▶ Notes to teachers.
- ▶ Notes to programs.
- ▶ Where/how can we improve?





**know
nothing**

**understand
some**

**understand
more**

**could
teach**

self-evaluations
simple to do - useful to programs

Before the next classes...

- ▶ Fix the problems.
- ▶ Debrief.
- ▶ Thank and pay the teachers.



Common failure modes

- ▶ We advertised, no one showed; no one's interested.
- ▶ Our classes were teeny; they're not effective.
- ▶ We can't find teachers; people don't know this stuff.

Dissemination

- ▶ Talk at conferences
- ▶ Make teaching materials available online on your website and others'
- ▶ Link handouts with bibliographies, location-specific offerings
- ▶ Live your outreach



Meta-dissemination

- ▶ Talk *about* the classes
- ▶ Newspaper articles
- ▶ Newsletter mentions
- ▶ This sort of thing





We do the work
so we can do the work

Thank you.

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