Curriculum Development

& public libraries

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

Jessamyn West
<librarian.net/talks/mla11>

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

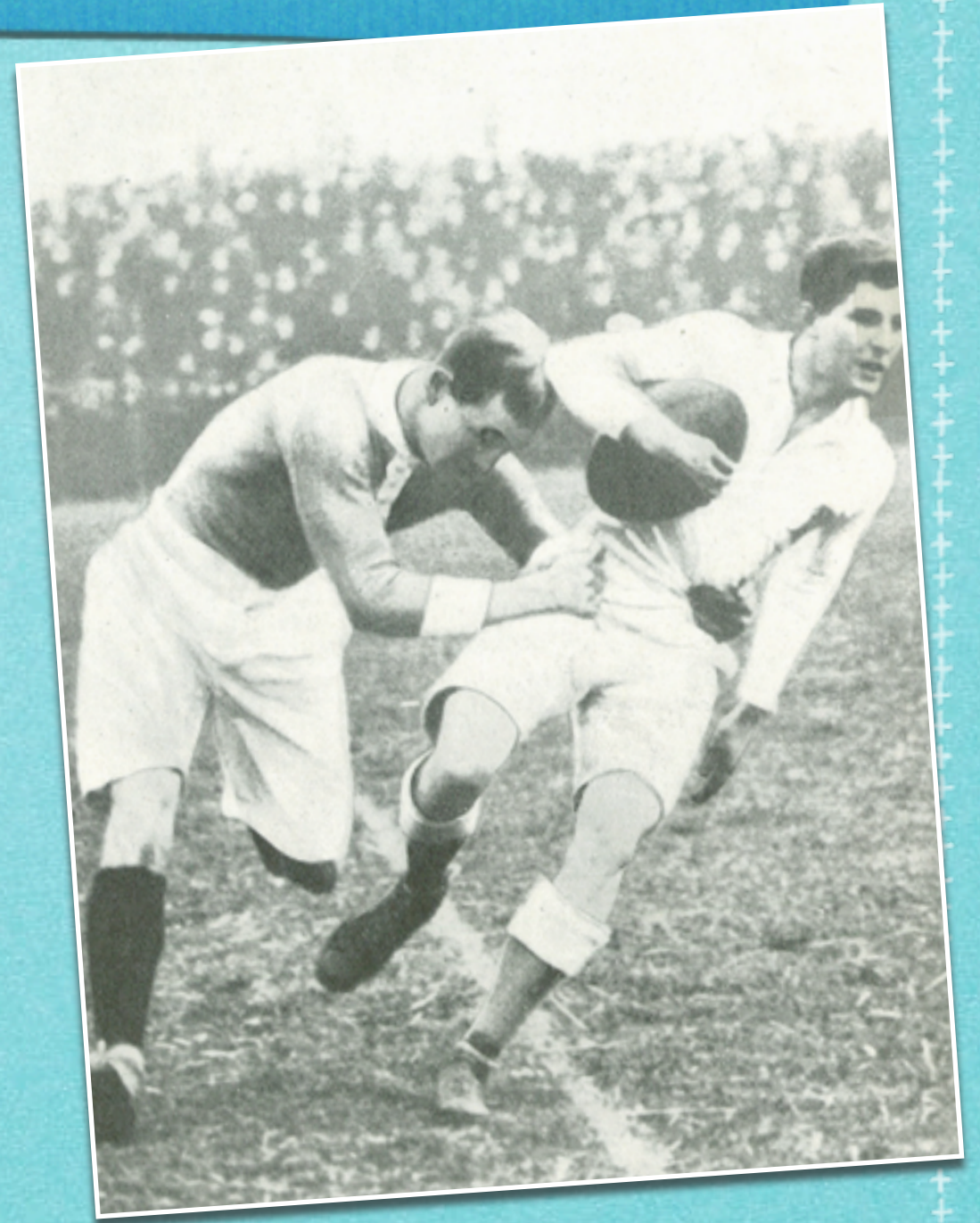# The big problem...

- 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"

http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/5074

Grids for classes

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

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
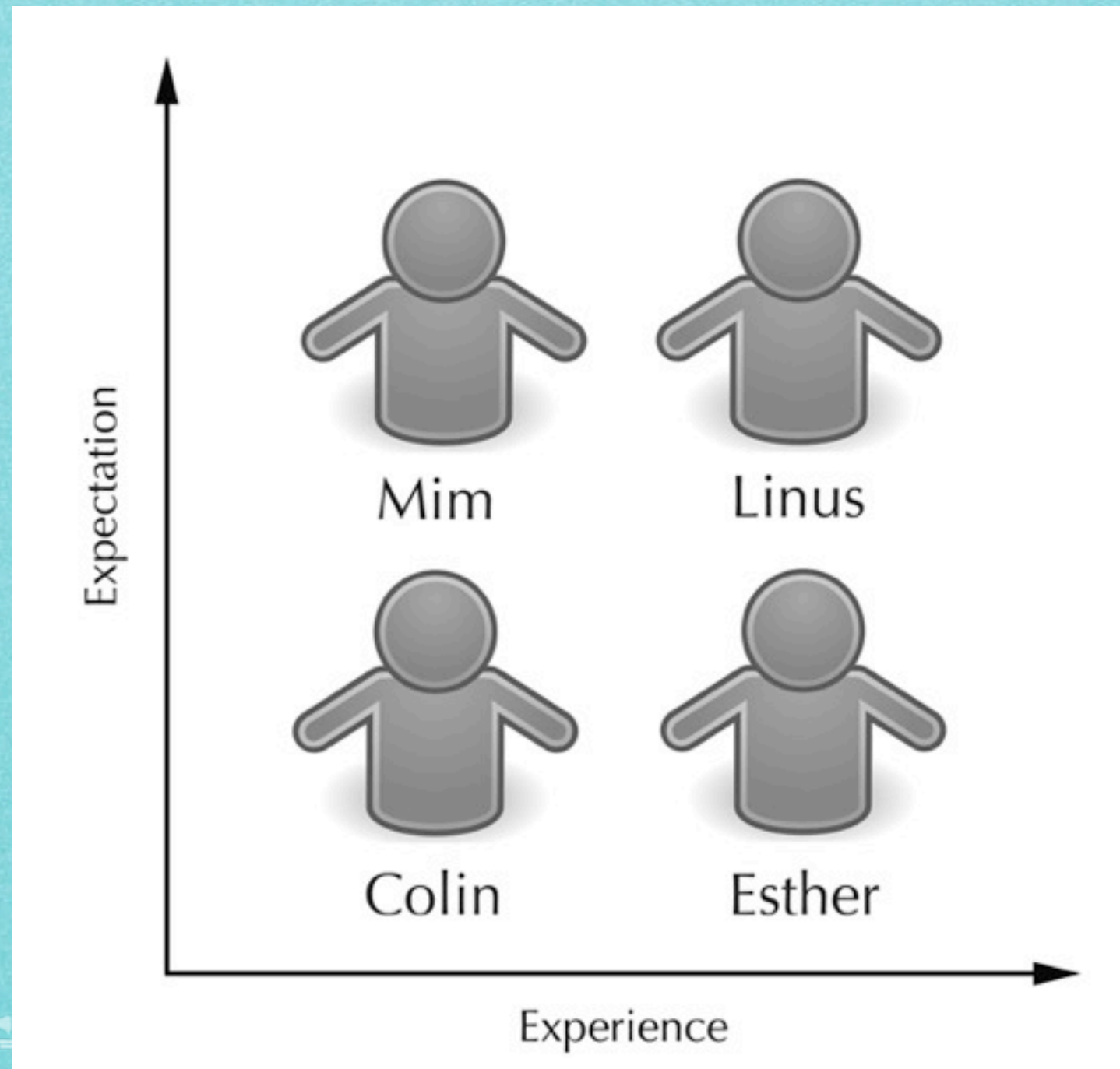
And specific patrons

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**
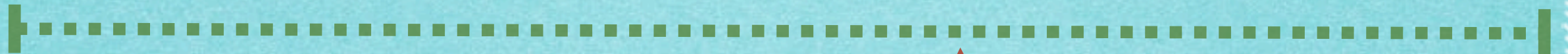
iTunes class

pre-requisites

help everyone

Adult new learners...

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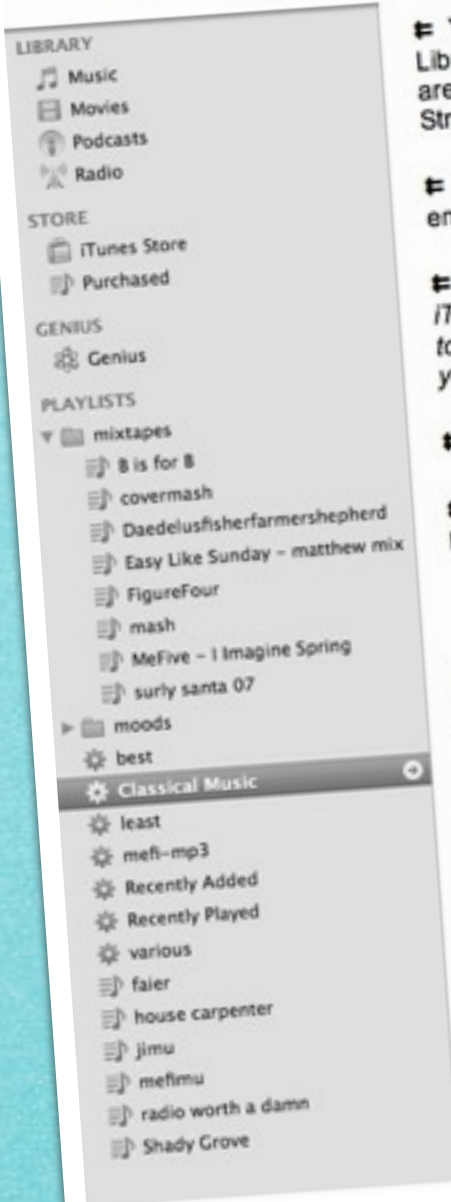
- Need culture as well as skills.

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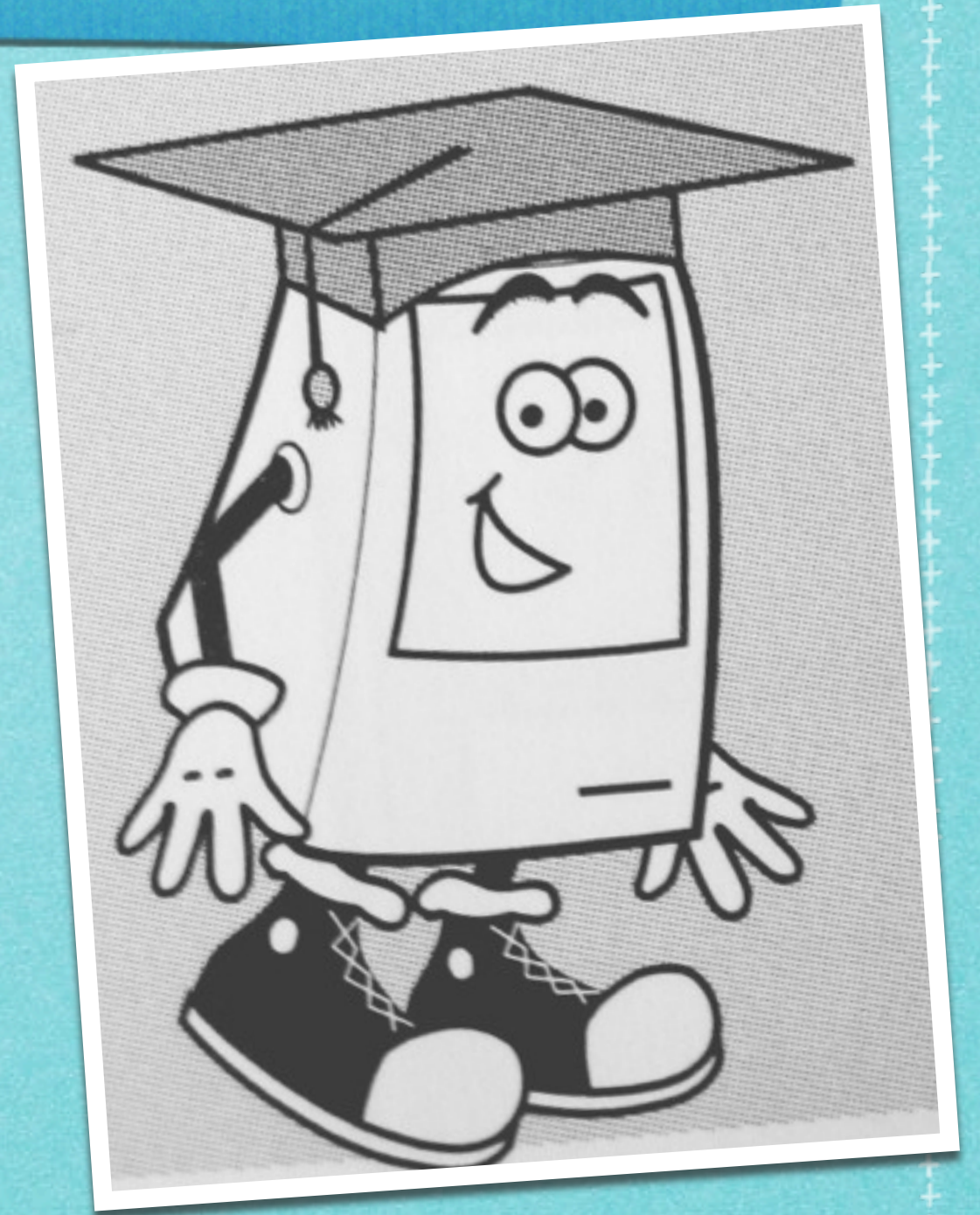
We are past the "if we build it, they will come" stage of technology instruction. We need to set up classes so that reluctant learners can succeed. This means watching our vocab, designing with compassion and being responsive to feedback.

During classes...

- Consistent handouts

- Lots of screenshots

- Lots of vocab

- Refresh and quiz

http://www.ion.uillinois.edu/resources/tutorials/assessment/bloomtaxonomy.asp

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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