



# Encouraging student discussion, analysis and reflection online

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## Why Technology?

- We want articulate, social learners who can collaborate in a wide range of settings.
- Technology allows people to communicate and share.



# Online Spaces

Personal Spaces

Social Spaces

Institutional Spaces



User control

Institutional control

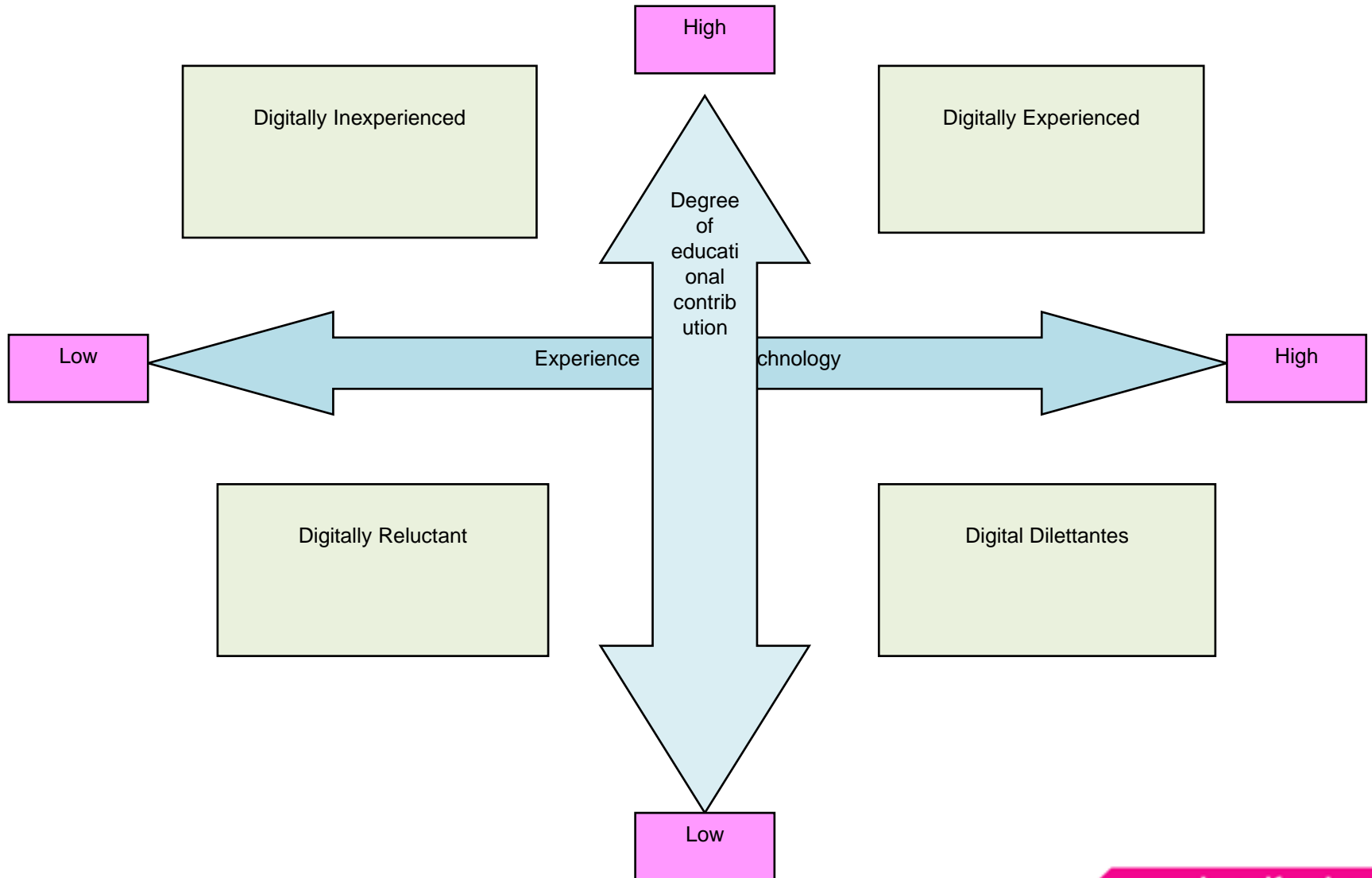
Personalisation  
Control  
Ownership

Personalisation  
Control  
Easy to link to others

Safe / private  
Linked to other  
systems



# Digital typology





## Discussion

- What are we using?
- What might we use?
- Why would we use it?
- What issues might arise?

- Don't start with what the tools are & what we might do with them but start with what is the problem that these tools might solve
- How do you make it successful? What makes an area populated?
- How do we get a critical mass of people to contribute to online tools e.g. only 2% of wikipedia users actually contribute

- Because of the baggage brought from facebook et al do students understand the differences in privacy controls etc
- What are our teaching strategies to enable critical reflection, collaboration and authorship?  
(answergarden)
- Styles of writing – blogging is not the same as reflection. How do we develop these skills, where is the fit between different uses? Format of tools – seeing bigger picture – perspective? Restriction of tools on thought process, presentation of ideas/words

- Need for group working skills and study skills to be embedded within the course so they can be developed transparently. Need for value of these to be seen explicitly.
- Tutor seen as authority figure – how do they contribute to discussions
- Time – both for students and staff
- Need for guidelines as well as training in how to do this for tutors and staff. How often will comments be made etc



- Using social networks rather than a VLE to encourage discussion.
  - Includes social bookmarks, podcasts, video sharing, social libraries.
- Real time chat, e.g. Skype or IM to support student interactions (for part time students).
- E-portfolios as a collaborative tool
- Skills Reflection activity (SaPRA)
- Mobile tools - <http://www.braduni.mobi/> / e-portfolio
- Real time, collaborative documents – Google Docs



## Summary

- What one new tool could I use?
- Where do we go from here?