Rethinking Books in the Era of the Network

Bob Stein, Director, Institute for the Future of the Book

For the past several hundred years intellectual discourse has been shaped by the rhythms and hierarchies inherent in the nature of print. As discourse shifts from page to screen, and more significantly to a networked environment, the old definitions and relations are undergoing unimagined changes. The role of the expert is being challenged. The roles of author and reader are morphing and blurring.

Listening to What We’re Seeing

Diana G. Oblinger, Vice President, EDUCAUSE

One student walks across campus listening to an iPod; another is engrossed in text messaging on her cell phone. During class, they're Googling, IMing and playing games--often at the same time. More likely to use the library as a gathering place than a resource, this is the Net Generation. They co-exist beside older students who are juggling work, childcare and eldercare. Although we see them daily, do we understand our learners? What do their experiences, attitudes and expectations mean for educational institutions? This presentation will help participants listen to what we are seeing--and respond.