

Subject: In the Technology Autobahn

OLTD 503

By Jean Kloppenburg

My first experience of being overwhelmed by technology came when I joined my first CEET MEET(Community of Expertise in Educational Technology) during my 502 course with Randy LaBonte. There I was entering in an online webinar whose members included the likes of Alec Couros, Valerie Irvine and Verena Roberts( <http://about.me/verena.roberts> ). The participants were established educators in online teaching and technology, and except for Alec, virtually unknown to me. The webinar lasted a week and it was filled with videos and online twitter feeds. Our task for our course was to simply submerge ourselves in CEET MEET and see for ourselves the power of this online community.

I tried to approach cautiously, watching a few videos at first and then focusing on the twitter feeds. As the online twitter feed began, it felt like I was entering the Autobahn in Germany with information flying by like a blurred Audi in fifth gear! Twitter feeds coming in so fast I'm not able to follow them let alone make a comment or reply. I feel completely out of my comfort zone. What an overpowering feeling to see such an influx of ideas to click on with threads taking you hours to investigate. Not knowing who these people were and what they were all about, I got pulled into the mad search of wanting to learn more.

Four hours of the night evaporate as I weave and wind through links that connect me to blogs and websites that, in the end, transform my thinking and planning in my own teaching. Through my search I find Shelly Wright's blog( <http://shelleywright.wordpress.com> ) and Eric Myers' Photography 2.0 site that have directly impacted my blended classroom outlook. It becomes addictive this abundance of information right at my fingertips.

I get obsessed and overwhelmed at the same time when following a twitter feed with links pertaining to online teaching. I now try to limit my time for searches to once a week when I know I have a few available hours. Early names at the Ceet Meet are now familiar to me and I follow them on twitter. Terms that were foreign to me are now commonplace. I keep my focus now and try to limit my search for items that have a direct meaning for me and my work.

