

The DPLA Center for Scholarship and Academic Discourse

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The purpose of the proposed DPLA Center for Scholarship and Academic Discourse is to guide the user beyond cursory inspection of secondary sources. This foible of our time is lamented by Nicholas Carr in *The Shallows*: “With writing on the screen, we’re still able to decode text quickly – we read, if anything, faster than ever – but we’re no longer guided toward a deep, personally constructed understanding of the text’s connotations...The strip-mining of ‘relevant content’ replaces the slow excavation of meaning” (p166).

The reader will be encouraged to utilize the DPLA and seek out deeper meaning if he/she can also find inspirational advice and research guidance. However, if the DPLA grows substantially there may not be enough librarians. Therefore, a database is needed to include others who are good at connecting the dots to encourage research; teachers, faculty, scientists, engineers, writers, humanists, lawyers, alumni, tutors, businesspeople, entrepreneurs etc. A premiere system for connecting experts and researchers is Zintro at www.zintro.com whose founder and president Stuart Lewtan has expressed willingness to accommodate the DPLA and serve students, teachers, faculty. With good biographical data such as this it becomes feasible to connect DPLA users with experts and scholars. An example of how subject matter is used to connect to Zintro experts is EcoSeed at <http://www.ecoseed.org/business/us> (click on a subheading). The Center will also use the power of LinkedIn for identification and discussions (see the College Research Sharing group). An example of how bios are optimally written is the new Cambridge College Alumni Profiles booklet, accessible via their site or the publisher www.issuu.com (I wrote this book as a consultant, and this profiling service is available via The Education Advisory Group www.eagstrategies.com At the end I wrote: Reproduction of any portion of this publication without written permission is forbidden, unless used for teaching under the doctrine of fair use)

The Center will utilize college and association speakers’ bureaus, and alumni offices, to solicit not only biographies but bibliographies, syllabi, abstracts, papers, essays, stories etc. Each of these would be searchable. For example, a student might find in the DPLA an older syllabus on consumerism, which includes a reading of *Looking Backward* by Edward Bellamy (1888). Clicking the title would link the student to the original text and clicking the professor’s name in the syllabus links to the Center and a mechanism via Zintro to send an invitation to communicate to the professor or a librarian. Eventually, inspired by some discussion, the student decides that it would be great to take the whole course. The Center could suggest to the college and/or professor that it offer the course again! There could be a great many spinoffs of ideas and projects because of this Center.