TITLE: Everything in the environment changes, but do we?

PLAN FOR SESSION:

1) Very short introduction and then start the exercise -

a) Think back to the first important new technology that you remember that made you say "wow"

b) How did that technology change you and change the world?

c) Collect a list on the whiteboard.  Try to include the date the technology became known

2) Break into small groups and share:

a) What were the triggers for you?

b) How do we feel about that technology now?

c) How comfortable are you with this technology?

3) Have a discussion with the whole audience about the list.

a) Did you note how the world has changed and how groups of different ages have a different set of values and perspectives.

b) Who do you look to for help in understanding new technology?

4) What are the teaching implications of this?

a) Given that for almost all teachers, the students are younger than the teachers, how do we connect with their experience?

b) While the environment is changing, are we changing how or what we teach?

c) Discuss The Education of Henry Adams.  It is an autobiography.  He was educated in the classical era but lived long enough to be part of the industrial revolution.   Although he adapts, he isn't quite as comfortable as those who simply are part of it, learn about it and for whom that's what is.   He has to learn the new and adapt.  His education didn't help.

d) We can talk about the value of experience, wisdom, etc. but the point of Henry Adams is made.   What are we doing to be relevant today?  Do we hold on too long to what was in our classes?  How do we give meaning to life long and also individual learning?

5) General discussion by participants.