



HOW WE TALK ABOUT HOW WE WORK: THE EMERGING LANDSCAPE OF SKILLS TAXONOMIES & HOW AI IS IMPROVING THEM

Maury Shenk, CEO, LearnerShape

Webinar

Tuesday, 02 October, 11:00 GMT

A Word From Today's Chairman



Professor Michael Mainelli

Executive Chairman

Z/Yen Group

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Today's Agenda



- 11:00 – 11:05 Chairman's Introduction
- 11:05 – 11:25 Keynote Presentation – Maury Shenk
- 11:25 – 11:45 Question & Answer

Today's Speaker



Maury Shenk

CEO

LearnerShape



Flexible open-source learning infrastructure

How We Talk About How We Work

The Emerging Landscape of Skills Taxonomies,
and How AI Is Improving Them

Maury Shenk

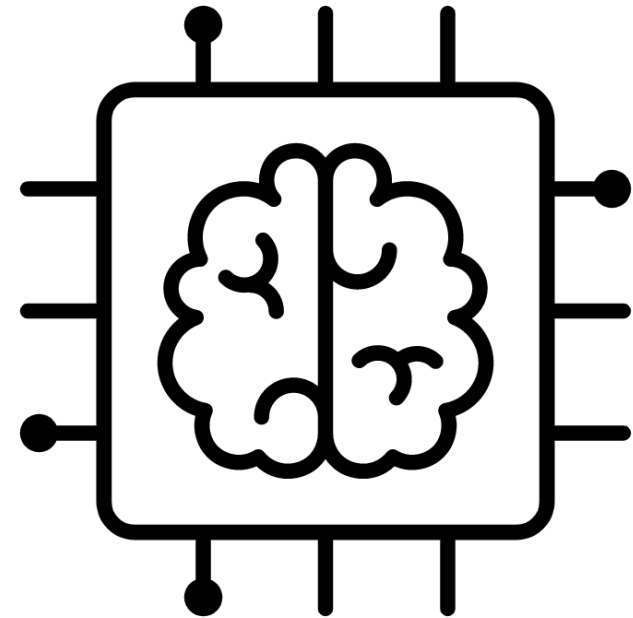
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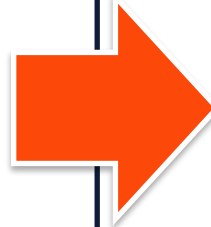
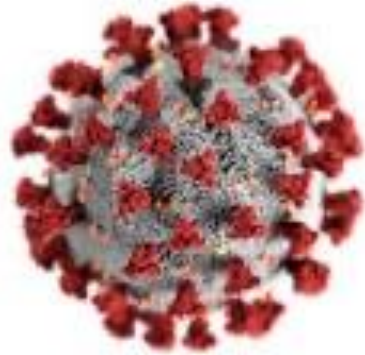


LearnerShape Mission

What if we could use a variety of AI methods to provide a portable representation of every individual to inform their lifetime learning journey?



Job Disruption and Reskilling



87%

of executives face skill gaps now or expect gaps within 3-5 years¹

70%

of executives expect disruption of more than 10% of their companies' roles within 5 years (and 30% expect more than a quarter)¹

"We stand on the brink of a technological revolution that will fundamentally alter the way we live, work, and relate to one another."

- Klaus Schwab (2016)

"Investment in upskilling has the potential to boost GDP by \$6.5 trillion by 2030."

- World Economic Forum (2021)

Source: ¹McKinsey, 'Beyond hiring: How companies are reskilling to address talent gaps' (2020)

Poll #1

What percentage of jobs in your company and/or field of work do you expect to change significantly in the next decade?

- A. < 10%**
- B. 10 – 25%**
- C. 25 – 50%**
- D. 50 – 75%**
- E. > 75%**

Uses of Skills Taxonomies



Hiring

Reskilling

Workforce Mobility

Skills Taxonomies (1) – Big Players



- Launched 1997 to replace 70-year-old US Department of Labor *Dictionary of Occupational Titles*
- Focused on US labor market
- Based around O*NET Content Model, including many categories (e.g. skills, tasks, knowledge, work styles, technology skills & tools) across six categories (e.g. worker characteristics, worker requirements)
- Widely used for research
- <https://www.onetonline.org/>



- Developed since 2010 by European Commission
- Published in 24 EU languages, Norwegian, Icelandic and Arabic
- Defines skills/competences, qualifications and occupations
- Skills divided into attitudes and values, knowledge, language skills and knowledge, and skills
- <https://ec.europa.eu/esco/portal/home>

Skills Taxonomies (2) – Technology



- Skills for the Information Age – developed by non-profit since 2000 (now SFIA 8)
- Defines professional skills at 7 levels of responsibility competencies, knowledge
- Focused on information technologies and associated processes
- Requires paid license for commercial use
- <https://sfia-online.org/en>



- Developed since 2008 and published in 2010, by European Committee for Standardization (CEN)
- European framework for ICT professionals, used as input to ESCO
- Based around 41 competences at 5 proficiency levels
- <https://www.ecompetences.eu/>

Skills Taxonomies (3) – New Kids on the Block



- Announced January 2021
- “Synthesizes and builds on existing taxonomies”
- <https://www.weforum.org/reports/e47fb10b-de89-4092-98c6-198fd2328556>

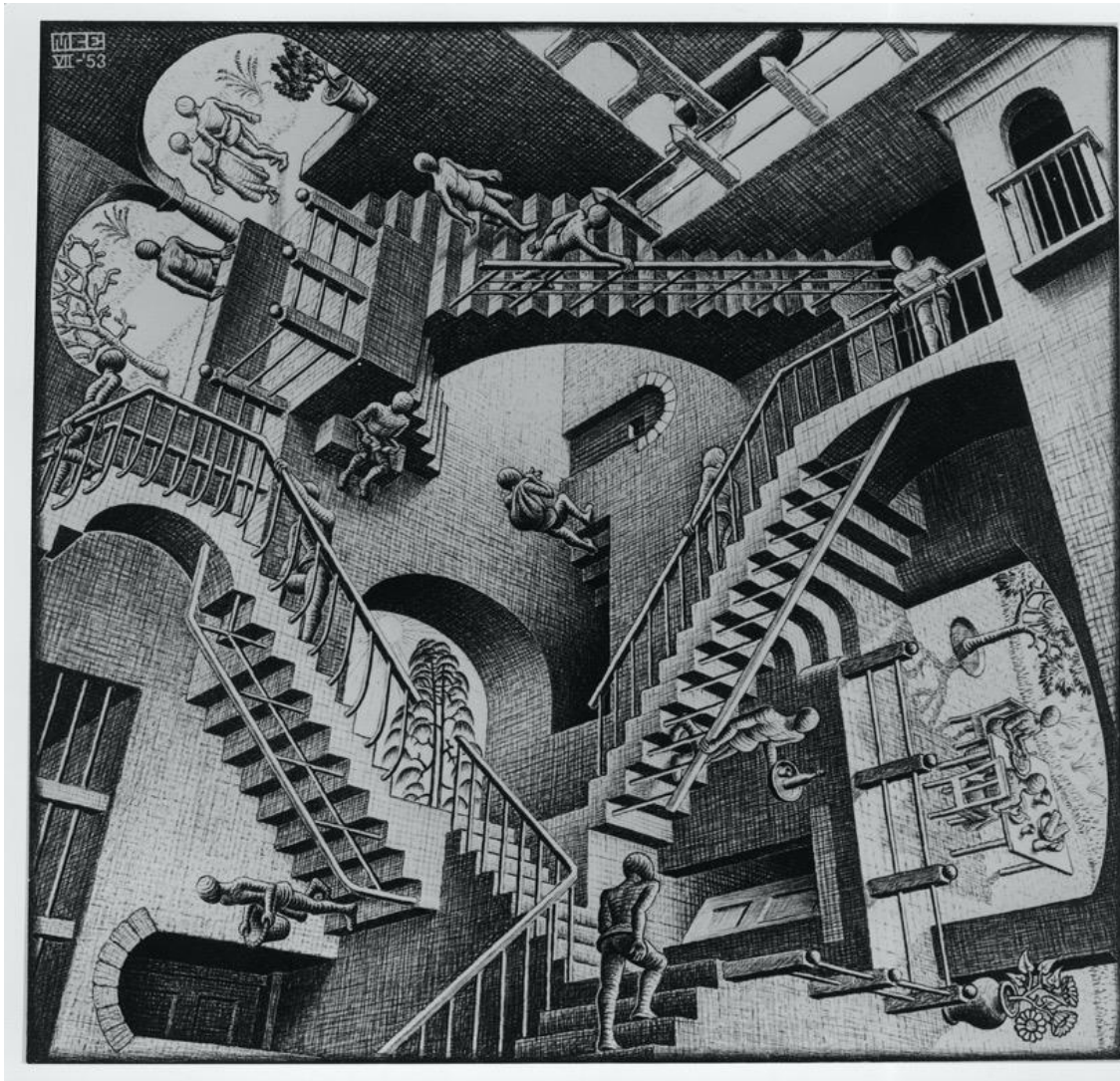


- Released in 2018
- “The UK needs a skills taxonomy”
- 10K+ skills, in 6 clusters, with 35 groups and 143 skills clusters
- <https://data-viz.nesta.org.uk/skills-taxonomy/index.html>




- LinkedIn Skills Graph
- Proprietary for LinkedIn users, but considering broader access
- <https://opportunity.linkedin.com/skills-graph-sign-up>


Confused?



How We Talk About Skills



I'm a data scientist with 4 years of experience in natural language processing, especially BERT and other semi-supervised learning techniques.



I have SFIA skills in Data Modelling and Design (level 5), Programming / Software Development (level 5) and Software Design (level 4).

Poll #2

Do you encounter skills taxonomies often at work?

A. Yes

B. No

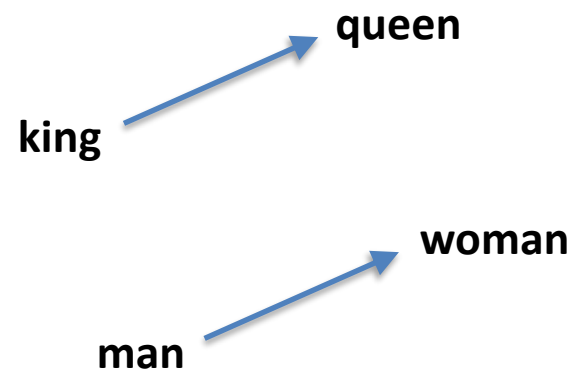
Skills and Machine Learning

Job Market Data

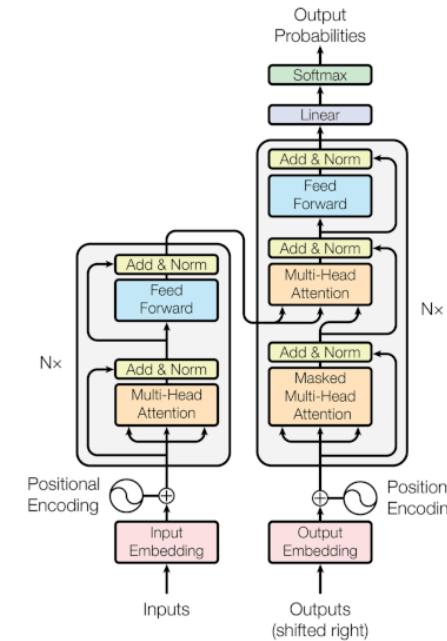


Word Embeddings

king – man + woman =
queen



Pre-Trained Language Models

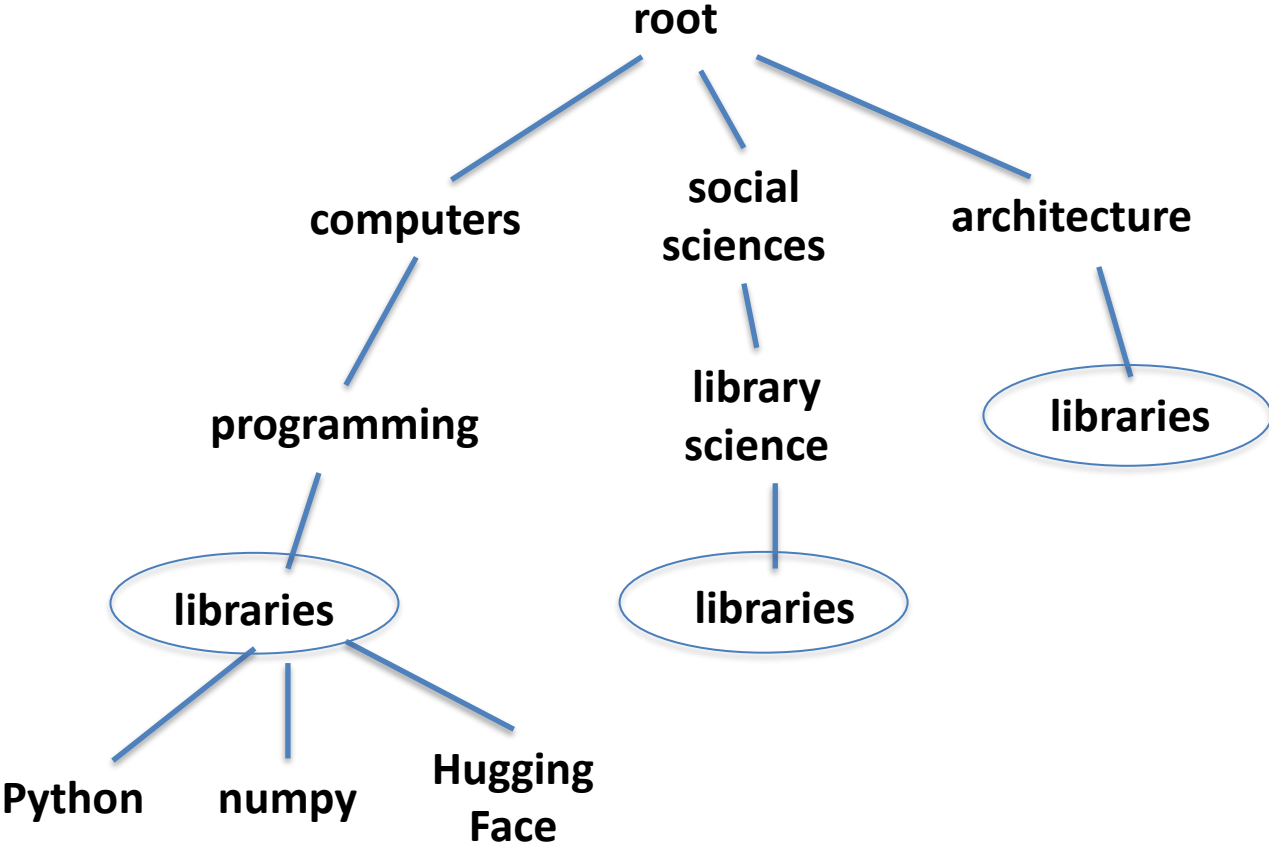


Transformer architecture

- BERT
- GPT-3
- Universal Sentence Encoder
- ELECTRA
- many more

Optimizing Skills Structure for Machine Learning

libraries



LearnerShape Open Source

<https://github.com/LearnerShape/lsgraph>



Functionality added includes:

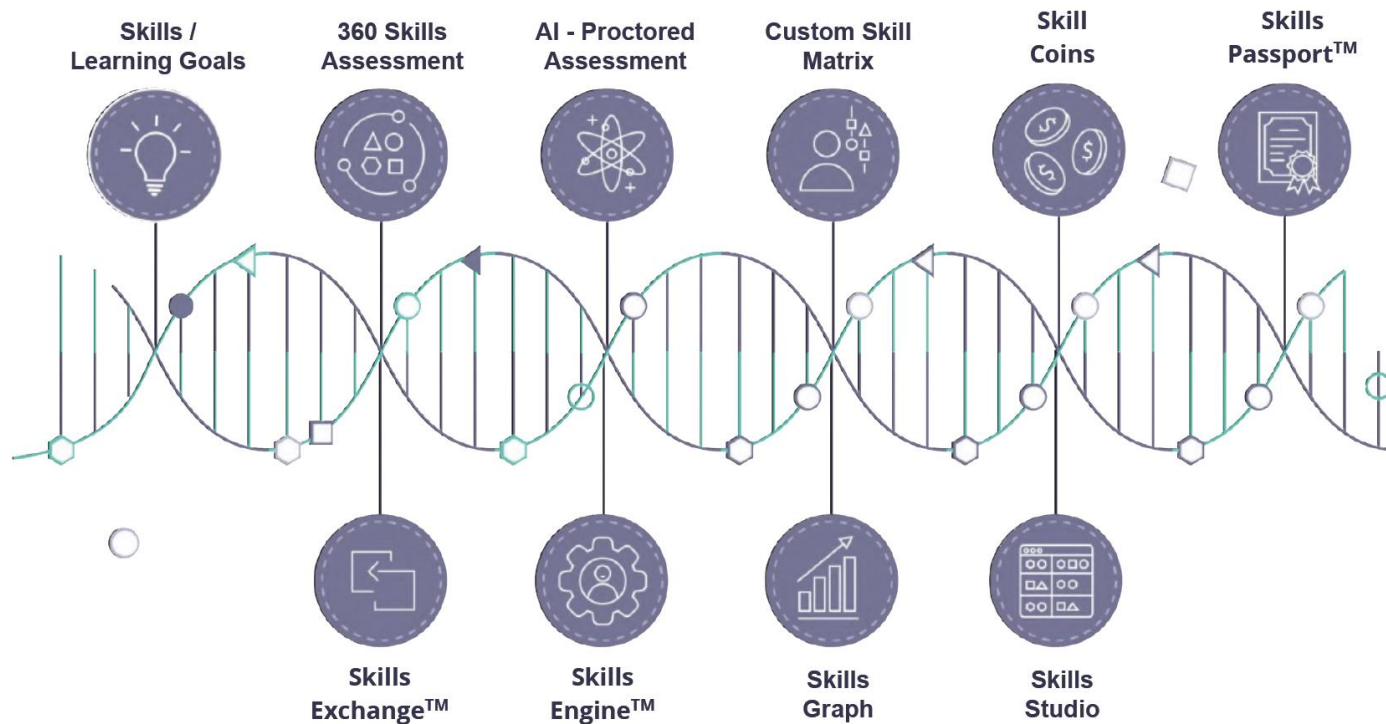
- Skill creation and graph modification
- Learning resource management
- User management
- Group creation and management
- Resource collections
- "Online" application of machine learning models

Existing functionality will also be moved and improved:

- Learning resource recommendation
- Job recommendation
- Workforce planning

EdCast SkillsDNA

SkillsDNA™ Elements *



- Released 2021
- Extensible skills taxonomy – 15K skills, 5.5K roles
- “AI-proctored mappings across functions”
- <https://www.edcast.com/corp/products/skillsdna/>



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Forthcoming Events

- Wed, 03 Nov (16:00-16:45) Accounting Standards & Discount Rates In DB Pension Scheme Evaluation
- Tue, 09 Nov (15:00-15:45) Where have All The £300k+ Jobs Gone? Challenging Presumptions Existing Within The Executive Job Search Arena
- Wed, 10 Nov (10:00-10:45) Why British Tech Investors Fail And Americans Succeed: Time To Reinvent Futurology?
- Thu, 11 Nov (16:00-16:45) Early Research: The Global Leading Indicator

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