

"Why a wiki? Because nobody is as smart as everybody." - Kevin Kelly

Introduction

Wikis are openly editable web sites that have ushered in new opportunities for collaboration and shared knowledge creation. Now nearly everyone with Internet access and freely available wiki software can create spaces on the web that make communication, sharing resources and group development of content very easy. This session will introduce participants to the educational use of wikis, and examine key questions and challenges faced in successfully implementing them into coursework. Faculty participants will brainstorm potential uses in their own courses and gain hands-on experience setting up and using freely available wiki tools on the web.

Through your participation in this session you should be able to:

- Identify potentially meaningful uses of wikis to support learning in your own courses.
- Set up and use basic wiki features including site / page creation, basic editing, managing access and adding multimedia content.
- Begin consideration of participation guidelines and assessment options for using wikis in your courses.

Key Questions

- What instructional problems are we trying to solve through the introduction of wikis into coursework?
- What impact does open / shared knowledge creation on the web have on traditional notions of teaching and learning?
- What instructional advantages / disadvantages might there be in employing wikis in the classroom?
- What does assessment of individual student learning look like in contexts that that promote collective resource development and knowledge building?

Wikis in Education: Brainstorm

- What potential uses do you see for wikis in your teaching?
- What questions and concerns do you have about using wikis for educational purposes?

All session resources can be found here:

<http://teachlearntech.wetpaint.com/page/Wikis+in+Education>

Wikis in Education: Examples

Course-based use of a wiki, Michael Wesch, Kansas State University

<http://spring09.wetpaint.com/>

Development and delivery of “open courses” on-line, Learning Technologies Center,
University of Manitoba

<http://ltc.umanitoba.ca/wiki/Connectivism>

Using wikis for presentations at professional conferences

<http://informstec2008.wetpaint.com/>

Organizing and conducting educational conferences for open participation

<http://educon21.wikispaces.com/>

Exploring Wiki Tools

VCU does not currently have a university supported wiki tool. At the CTE, we have had success using the following freely available / hosted wiki tools:

Wetpaint <http://www.wetpaint.com>

Wikispaces <http://www.wikispaces.com/>

Thoughts, Questions, Notes