Wikis for Building a Collaborative Education Environment

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Today’s Outline

- Wikis and Web 2.0
- Wikis and Collaborative Education Environment
- Case Studies - FAST and EPOD @ CSE
- Concluding Remarks
Web 2.0

- Web as a medium vs. **Web as a platform**
- Read-Only Web vs. **Read-and-Write Web**
- Static vs. **Dynamic**
- Restrictive vs. **Freedom & Empowerment**
- Technology-centric vs. **User-centric**
- Limited vs. **Rich User Experience**
- Individualistic vs. **Group/Collective Behavior**
- Consumer vs. **Producer**
- Transactional vs. **Relational**
- Top-down vs. **Bottom-up**
- People-to-Machine vs. **People-to-People**
- Search & browse vs. **Publish & Subscribe**
- Closed application vs. **Service-oriented Services**
- Functionality vs. **Utility**
- Data vs. **Value**

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Web 2.0 Revolution

- **Glocalization** - think globally and act locally!
- **Weblication** - Web is the application!
- **3 Cs**
  - **Connectivity**
  - **Collaboration**
  - **Communities**

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## Wikis and Web 2.0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>Web 1.0</th>
<th>Web 2.0</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HTML, JAVA, Flash Website, encyclopedia, CMS</td>
<td>AJAX, CSS Blog, wiki, wikis As a platform/tool</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website, encyclopedia, CMS As a book/magazine</td>
<td>User-contributed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Usage</th>
<th>Web 1.0</th>
<th>Web 2.0</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Company-oriented</td>
<td>B2B and B2C</td>
<td>User-contributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fee-based</td>
<td>Sales channel</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Audiences = Authors</td>
<td>Free information</td>
<td>Social networking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wikis and Web 2.0

- Wiki is:
  - defined as “the simplest online database that could possibly work.”
  - a set of web pages that anyone can create or edit--the R/W Web!
  - Wiki = Wikipedia - pedia (knowledge contents)
Wikis and Collaborative Education

• Without using Wikis:
  • Information can’t be shared easily
  • Information can’t be managed easily
  • Revision can’t be recorded easily
  • Applications are inflexible and inextensible
The Wiki Advantage

• Wiki’s advantages:
  • Open source (Free!)
  • Collaborative document management
  • Decentralized control of centralized data
  • Simple, indexable and searchable
  • Extensible and flexible structure (ontology)
Wikis in Education

- Wiki’s applications in building collaborative education environment:
  - Personal homepages
  - Course homepages
  - Conference homepages
  - Documentation and collaboration
Case Study 1: FAST

- **FAST** - FYP Archival, Support, and Tracking System

- Objectives
  - enhance administration *effectiveness* and *efficiency*
  - assure project *quality*
  - improve cross-departmental *collaboration*
  - maximize *sharing* of the project outcomes

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Wiki in FAST

- Revision control
- Access control
- Plugins
- Templates
- Caching
- Full text search
Case Study 2: ePOD

- ePOD - The Education Podcast Project
- Use podcast to deliver lecture materials to students
- Benefits
  - Encourage self-learning
  - Help to spread knowledge
  - Excellent publicity tool
Wiki in ePod

- Administration
- User management
- Resource Management
- Functions Plugins, such as
  - Blog
  - Feed
  - Discussion
Concluding Remarks

• Wiki is a powerful information collaboration platform on the web

• searchable, indexable, flexible, and extensible

• Wiki is an ideal tool in a collaborative education environment for managing rich multimedia contents and tracking of learning
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