

Impact of Wikis on Informal Learning

By

Ayse Kok
University of Oxford

Abstract

Wiki use for/in collaborative learning is no easy task. It requires the unlearning of old models socialized in a mindset of individual learning to the learning of new norms, processes and mindsets of collaborative learning. Besides, given the complexity and variety of digital tools the landscape for learning becomes quite complicated for the even the most digitally literate. This study will examine how wikis can be used to create informal learning opportunities. The primary artifact analyzed in this research study was a “course wiki,” for the elective Management Information Systems (MIS) Course “Organizational Learning 2.0”. As educators in higher education, it is imperative that we explore, study and adopt new and differing methods for digital mediated learning in our curricular, designing the learning experience with digital media as part of it, not separate to it or an add on, to ensure our students have the necessary knowledge and skills to participate effectively in a world of dynamic ubiquitous digital mediation. Findings revealed that although not all of the responses were positive, the majority of student’s attitudes and perceptions towards contributing to a collective intelligence were positive. Students discovered that collaborative writing on a wiki differed from previous classroom writing projects, be they individual or group work.

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