

Evolution of Wiki

(exchange of correspondence between Peter Taylor and R.A. Jan Coe)

Course websites & Wikis

(Draft 9 Jan 06)

Course website as primary archive. Acrobat can capture this site as one big pdf file (including only material with root of www.faculty.umb.edu/pjt)

Levels of entry

1. Syllabus

Include Links to a html page for each week (which includes a duplicate of syllabus page)*

Include full bibliography, which has link password protected site for pdf versions of articles (=> use eRes only when pdf versions aren't available)

2. These pages have notes on readings & instructions for discussion & links to summaries of readings (each added to webpage by PT as available, e.g., when student sends by email)*

Would the summaries and notes that students submit be passworded also or just posted with their respective initials?

***My preference is for initials (so the info is viewable by anyone)**

+ Note encouraging people to edit and submit revised version of previous summary (imitating wiki, given that substantive statements for wikis get prepared offline)

Would students edit just their own summaries or each others'? e.g. for the summary of Harkness that I submitted (which presumably would be turned in ahead of the class at which it was going to be discussed) would any student be able to revise or add to that summary following the discussion or just the original writer – if he/she were so moved?

***My idea is that future students might edit a summary from a previous year rather than start from scratch.**

+ link back to full bibliography

* Naming = Course numberxx.html, where xx = -yearW9 for week 9 or Merton for summary of reading on Merton, etc.

Wiki used for dynamic exchanges (see cbsd home page for rationale)

Cleaned up and archived on website later (using html or pdf? Capture from wiki –if I can get that feature to work)

Also ? used for dynamic exchanges before class and as a record to be followed up for exchanges occurring during class ** **This seems really promising. Need to think about whether the instructor “seeds” the page with an idea or topic, with each student contributing his/her views ON THAT**

PAGE (have them insert a horizontal rule after commenting?) OR whether that initial page can just be the starting point with each student linking off on to a page(s) of their own. The issue is whether you want to see all commentary on that topic on the one page, or whether you use the page as a 'launching pad' into lots of different directions/pages.

* See cbsd on wiki.xp.textdriven.com for an evolving model

Not used as primary vehicle for PBLs of the PT kind because most of the thinking for this will be done offline.

?But one PBL assignment could be for students to report key parts of their inquiry in a loose wiki format (no wikipedia-like expectations)*** Seems particularly apt for this purpose.

Tasks

Retrofit 749-05 site to test out the system (PT)

Prepare cbsd materials for one exchange (PT), then test run it with JC and interested students (SS, JL?) Look forward to it.

*I won't be teaching 645 this semester, but as part of your RA work you and the other two people who may work on the 645 materials as an indep. study could help me get a feel for how it all works in practice

** Try this out for 749 next time offered

*** Try this out in 693

Questions

Do dynamic exchanges need to be done on a wiki that is as neat? as instiki or could it be done on the one JC found?

*since writing this and seeing how wikispaces looks now, I have convertd

Could I create materials on a personal wiki (i.e., on my desktop), export them as an html file, then move that to my website (thus not depending on host service). Not sure what you mean here.

*this was a question to myself. Instiki has some bug that prevents export to html file at the moment. But we now know that wikispaces will do it for us if we ask.

1/9/06