12-2-2007

Poster: South Central Medical Library Conference

Claire Conrad
Deb LaPointe

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Welcome to the OLIT 538 Designing Online Learning Wiki!

**OBJECTIVE**
Qualitative study designed to uncover participants' experiences as contributors and reviewers in two graduate courses using course wikis.

**SETTING/PARTICIPANTS**
13 graduate students (3 males and 10 females) enrolled in two graduate-level courses in law and education that incorporated course wikis. Education students created a wiki for designing online courses as a course requirement. School of Law students created a wiki for students participating in the Law Clinic. Students initiated the wiki.

**METHODS**
We interviewed participants using a descriptive survey to gather their perceptions of their experiences related to:
- collaborating to create and review contributions
- thinking about what to contribute
- comparing the wiki to other tools
- editing others' contributions to the wiki
• comparing a wiki with a course management system
• feedback on the wiki

**WIKI**
A set of related Web 2.0 pages that can be authored collectively. Authoring occurs in a Web browser with minimal working knowledge of HTML. Changes are made through “live edit” in the browser window. A wiki is an application as well as a concept.

**RESULTS**
Participants posted content related to course and projects. They read and used each other's contributions, three valued others’ work. All others did not post because they thought it might be perceived as “offensive” or “disrespectful.” They also felt they lacked the time to edit others’ work.

The wiki created a “collective picture of what we all know” and “reinforced the idea that we had something to contribute.” Experts were identified through contributions to the wiki. Although posting content to the law clinic wiki was initially required, it has since become self-maintaining through student interest.

**CONCLUSIONS**
Designing wikis to actually be collaborative workspaces and guiding students to feel comfortable editing others’ contributions requires much more investment of thought and planning.

Recommendations include:
- Students and instructors collaboratively plan the purpose of the course wiki and its structure.
- Guidelines for creating content and deciding when content is ready for publication and review be established.
- Role, tasks, and timelines be scheduled.
- Support provided through course discussions, job sites.
- Resources and discussions provided on critically reviewing others’ work and making useful recommendations for edits and revisions.

OLIT 535 Course Wiki

School of Law Clinic Course Wiki

*Wiki Survey Analysis Tag Cloud*