

Making Wikis Work

Doug Worsham
Foreign Language Technologist
Learning Support Services
University of Wisconsin – Madison

FLEAT 5
Provo, Utah

Outline for the day

- [An introduction to the world of wikis](#)
 - What's a wiki?
 - What makes wikis remarkable?
- [The Wisconsin Wiki Explosion!](#)
 - Wiki projects, past, present, and future
 - Lessons learned
- [Creating your own wikis](#)
 - Getting started with wiki software
 - Sticky issues with wikis
- [Wiki Extras](#)

An Introduction to the world of wikis

**A wiki is a _____ belonging to a
_____.**

**Anyone in the _____ can
_____ or _____ the wiki.**

An Introduction to the world of wikis

WIKIPEDIA

English
The Free Encyclopedia
500 000+ articles

Deutsch
Die freie Enzyklopädie
210 000+ Artikel

日本語
フリー百科事典
105 000+ 記事

Svenska
Den fria encyklopedin
66 000+ artiklar

Nederlands
De vrije encyclopedie
60 000+ artikelen


Italiano
L'enciclopedia libera
37 000+ articoli

Português
A enciclopédia livre
34 000+ artigos

Français
L'encyclopédie libre
90 000+ articles

Polski
Wolna Encyklopedia
60 000+ haseł

Español
La enciclopedia libre
44 000+ artículos



search / suche / 検索 / rechercher / sök / szukaj / zoeken / buscar / ricerca /
busca

English

Romantic Audience Project
English 242: The Romantic Audience

[[start](#) | [index](#) | [login](#)]

snipsnap-index

Created by [dhamilto](#). Last edited by [\[google\]](#) [\[daypop\]](#) [edit]
[mphilip](#) 612 days ago. Viewed 17331 times.

Welcome to RAP

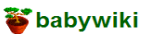
The Romantic Audience Project is a collaborative study authored by [students](#) enrolled in [English 242, Spring 2003](#), taught by [Mark Phillipson](#) at [Bowdoin College](#).

How to look around

Wikis are decentralized and they can be confusing. If you'd like an introduction to this technology and our use of it, read [About this website](#).

Or you can jump right in to student entries and explore. There are several ways to do so:

- You might begin at a specific poem (for example, [Resolution and Independence](#)) and follow the links in its text to see related material and read student entries.
- You might begin at a major author page (for example, [William Wordsworth](#)) to see a list of poems, links, and images in RAP related to that author.

 [Wikispaces](#) » [babywiki](#) » Baby Names doug [Se](#)

[My Page](#)
[Popular Pages](#)
[Recent Changes](#)

☆ **Baby Names** [edit page](#) · [discussion](#) · [show options >>](#)

What makes wikis remarkable (and remarkably *unsettling*)?

- Anyone can add, edit, or delete a page
- Users control the design and organization of the wiki
- On most wikis, content is considered more important than form

Part 2:

Wisconsin Wiki Explosion!

- The Wisconsin Wiki Explosion!
 - Wiki projects, past, present, and future
 - Lessons learned along the way

Lit. of Spanish Golden Age

- Instructor: Ivy Corfis
- LSS liaison: Bruno Browning



Project

- Students participated in group writing assignments on a class Wiki managed by the instructor.

Authorship



Wiki as Collaboration tool

- Students like the ability to collaborate any time anywhere
- The wiki facilitates, but doesn't *teach* collaboration skills
- Students need help organizing collaborative writing projects
- Wiki management is ideally controlled by the students
- Students need to develop wiki-skills
- The “history” and “recent changes” tools can help with assessing participation

Spanish 226: Int. Language Practice with Emphasis on Writing

- Elena Iglesias-Villamel & Ana Rodriguez-Rodriguez, instructors
- Martin Pflug, LSS Liaison



Project

- Students submit individual writing assignments on a course wiki

Authorship



Wiki as

Course Management System

- Wiki writing doesn't *have to be* collaborative
- Wikis can be a cost effective alternative to a commercial CMS
 - Wikis are simple and flexible
 - But, instructors start with a blank slate – no tools or templates

Italian 203: 3rd Semester Italian

- Fall 2004
- Robin Worth, instructor
- Doug Worsham/Bruno Browning LSS Liaison



Project

- Class creates a guide to Italian cities
- Students read and comment on their classmates' work

Authorship



WIKI as

Information pool/resource

- Students can create learning materials!
- Wikis allow a variety of authorship/ownership combinations
- Wikis break down the dynamics of traditional writing assignments
- It is very hard to let go of the idea of “ownership” of the text
- Task-design and an assessment plan are crucial
- Wikis can expand both the audience and the participants in writing projects
- Plagiarism is a big issue

WISCONSIN WIKIS: Spring 2005

- Italian 203 (all sections)
- ESL
 - Ss use a wiki to share data for a group research project
- Norwegian
 - Students collaborate on biographies of famous Norwegians
- Advanced Piano
 - Ss record impressions of various musical works
- History
 - Ss collaborate on a shared bibliography of course content

Creating your own wiki projects

Wiki software

- Wikipedia article on wikis
 - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiki>
- Wikipedia wiki comparison chart
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_wiki_software
- Wikipedia list of wiki farms
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_wiki_farms

Sticky issues with wikis

The main challenges:

- Authorship
- Assignments (task-design)
- Audience and Privacy
- Accountability/Assessment

Your Questions & WIKI Extras

- Do wikis improve FL writing?
- [Pilot study data](#) (Italian 203)
- [Student Responses to wikis](#) (Italian 203)
- [What's next for Wisconsin wikis?](#)
- [Tips for successful task design](#)
- [Authorship ideas](#)
- [Assessment ideas](#)
- [About “soft security”](#)
- [References](#)

References

- Using wikis to engage resistant learners: Can technology help reach them? Presented by Worth and Ziemendorf at UNTELE 2005
- Wide Open Spaces - Wikis Ready or Not - EDUCAUSE Review, vol. 39, no. 5 (September/October 2004): 36–48

What's next?

- More experimentation with task-design in collaborative writing environments
- [Collaborative process writing](#)
- Better articulated assessment options
- Collaborative writing with other universities?
- Multimedia in Wikis?
- Wiki + RSS = ???
- WikiWritingWorkshop - <http://www.seedwiki.com/wiki/wikiwritingworkshop>

About “soft” security

- The wiki community, rather than a central authority, maintains order
- Regular wiki users tend to “clean-up” after “vandals”
- Vandalized pages are restored from an automatically generated page history
- Wiki communities develop guidelines for participation

Responses to

“What I liked best about the Wiki”

- “the chance to deviate from a strict structure - we could put whatever we wanted on there (pictures, responses, content).”
- “I like to see my classmates’ work. It was also fun to see [their] comments on my work.”
- “It really gave us a focus for looking at Italy. I would love to go see Como sometime.”
- “It gives you a chance to feel part of the Italian culture, and to sift through the Italian language on

Other Comments

- “I think that at the end of the semester there should be a class presentation or something like that. Because when I worked on it and actually sat down it was fun to “discover” things about the city, I actually enjoyed researching it.”
- “it needed a bit of a learning curve at first, but I think that’s mainly because as students, we’re not used to the chance to do whatever we want on our page, sì?”

Tips for successful task-design

- Allow experimentation time
- Ease into it
- Remember that collaboration is a skill
- Create guidelines (or let your students create them)
- Have an assessment plan and make it clear to the students

Assessment Options

- Use the History / Track changes feature
 - Grade is based on participation
- Use page-emails / RSS to keep track of changes
- Self/Group-assessment
 - Grade is based on S reports of their contributions and self-reports of what they have learned
- ???

Student evaluations of wiki*

Total score **Mean score**

24	2.182
38	3.455
39	3.545
48	4.364
48	4.364
49	4.455
53	4.818
56	5.091
57	5.182

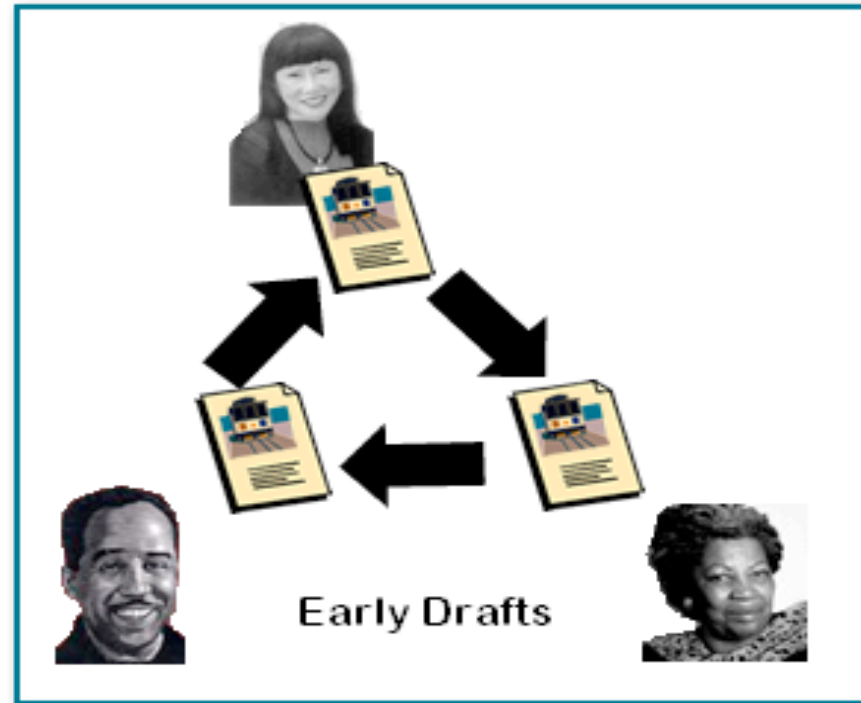
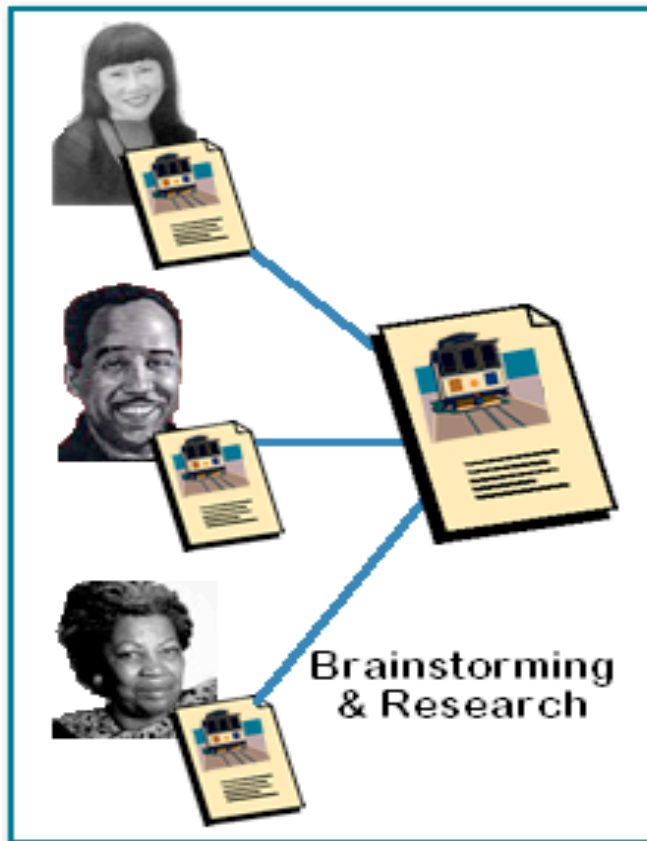
Total score **Mean score**

59	5.364
59	5.364
61	5.545
63	5.727
63	5.727
65	5.909
65	5.909
68	6.182
74	6.727

Student evaluations of wiki

Total score	Mean score	Gender	Total score	Mean score	Gender
24	2.182	F	59	5.364	F
38	3.455	F	59	5.364	M
39	3.545	F	61	5.545	M
48	4.364	F	63	5.727	M
48	4.364	F	63	5.727	M
49	4.455	F	65	5.909	F
53	4.818	F	65	5.909	M
56	5.091	M	68	6.182	M
57	5.182	F	74	6.727	M

Collaborative Process Writing



What makes wikis remarkable (and remarkably *unsettling*)?

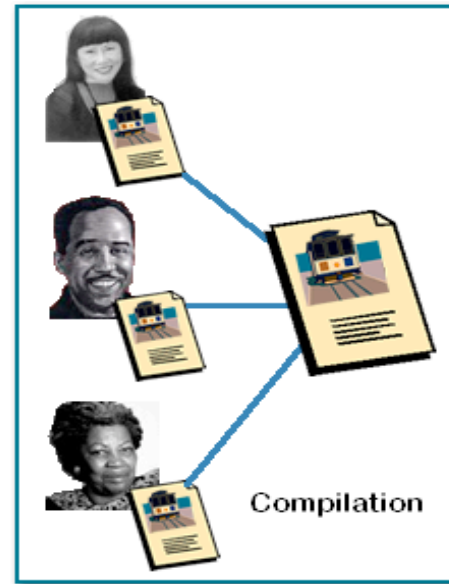
On a wiki	This is remarkable because	This can be unsettling because
Anyone can edit or add a page	It is easy to collaboratively build pools of information	Wiki Vandals and Wiki wars
The users of a wiki control the organization	The community structures the information	Newcomers may have trouble navigating
Content is more		

An introduction to the world of wikis

Terminology & Trivia

- “A single page in a wiki is referred to as a ‘wiki page,’ while the entire body of pages ... is called ‘the wiki.’”
- The name was based on the Hawaiian term *wiki wiki*, meaning "quick" or "super-fast". Sometimes **wikiwiki** or **WikiWiki** are used instead of *wiki*.
- The first wiki, the Portland Pattern Repository, was founded March 25, 1995

Wiki Authorship



An Introduction to the world of wikis

Key characteristics*

- Documents are created collectively
- Pages are easy to create and update
- “Generally, there is no review before modifications are accepted”
- Often “wikis are open to the general public” and “even registration of a user account is not always required.”

Wiki-fy that writing assignment!

Discuss ideas for wiki writing assignments:

- Which uses of the wiki seem most promising or interesting to you? Why?
- Can you think of a project that would work well for your class?

Goal – Identify one project that might work well on a wiki. Think about:

- Successful writing projects you've used in the past
- Common challenges your students face

Find someone who has ...

- Visited wikipedia.org.
- Visited another wiki.
- Played in a wiki sandbox.
- Edited a wiki page.
- Created a new wiki page.
- Started her/his own wiki.
- Been to Hawaii.

Time to play in the Sandbox



collaboration on demand.

Why seedwiki?

- No need to talk to a network administrator
- Free to create a small public wiki
- WYSIWIG editing

A few things to remember

- We'll be working in an entirely public wiki
 - Be ready for your work to be edited by others!
- Your contributions can be anonymous, but please be nice