Writing for Wikipedia as a learning task in the school’s information literacy instruction

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Know-Id project
Wikipedia framework for IL instruction

- Participative encyclopedia
  - Verifiability, No Original Research, Neutral Point of View
  - Transparent processes, Anyone can contribute

- Students use commonly as a source
  - Base for knowledge construction
  - But confusion in reliability assessment

- A public forum
  - perceived requirements -> meaningfulness -> motivation
  - focus on subject content -> learning orientation -> information practices
Research questions (pilot study)

- How do students’ approach and experience school assignments with the goal of collaboratively writing texts for Wikipedia?
- How does writing texts for Wikipedia based on independently found information serve the goals of information literacy instruction?
Data collection

- Upper secondary school/City of Tampere
  - Spring term 2010
- Pilot 1: Geography (8 weeks)
  - 9 Students
  - Data collection:
    - Pre-questionnaire, pre- and post-interviews
    - Non-participatory observations
    - Instructions, Wikipedia articles, Sources used
- Pilot 2: Biology (8 weeks)
  - 16 Students
  - Data collection
    - Difference: observations replaced by contextual inquiry interviews
- Two teachers, eleven groups, eleven articles
## Phases of the project (8 weeks)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase Actor</th>
<th>Before the course</th>
<th>Initiation</th>
<th>Working on articles</th>
<th>Uploading articles</th>
<th>Closure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teacher / Librarian</td>
<td>Course plan, Task plan, Topic ideas, Topic checking, Materials</td>
<td>Teacher’s intro, Guidelines, Librarian’s intro</td>
<td>Suggested sources, Guiding &amp; support, Control, Virtual “help desk”</td>
<td>Librarian’s support</td>
<td>Assessment of articles, Seminar (B), Exam (G)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>Enrollment</td>
<td>Participate Hands-on training (1-2 hours)</td>
<td>Group work (computer class, 6-7 hours)</td>
<td>Group work (computer class, one hour)</td>
<td>Self-assessment (B)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B = in biology, only, G = in geography, only
Findings of the pilot study

- Influence of Wikipedia (public forum)
  - Verifying facts, citing, writing, no copy-pasting
  - Meaningfulness

- Collaboration
  - Differs from a subtask to another
  - Three approaches in collaboration

- Learning experiences
  - Own topic, ISU, Wikipedia
  - Some worried about the maturity exam
The focus of the main study

- Understanding collaborative knowledge construction
  - Subtasks: Initiation, information searching & selection, information use and writing, closure
  - Collaboration vs. division of work
- Quality of the process and outcome
  - Assessment of processes and articles
  - Learning and collaboration experiences
- Characteristics of individuals and teams
  - Learning and information orientation, personality & identity, collaboration orientation, social relationships
The main study

- Cases (~28 students/class)
  - Literature class; Wikipedia article
  - History class; article for the school’s wiki
  - April - May 2011

- Data collection, as in the pilot, plus
  - Extended pre-questionnaire
  - Extended post-interviews and questionnaire
  - More focused contextual inquiry interviews
  - Wiki material, self- and teacher’s assessments
Contact info

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  - [https://www12.uta.fi/blogs/know-id/](https://www12.uta.fi/blogs/know-id/)

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