CS3305 Learnging Journal 7

**A guide for writing a “reflective journal:”**

**Who will read the journal?**

The contents of your journal will be only visible to the instructor.  Unlike discussion forums or blogs, the journal is an area for reflection without a wide audience.

**Why do it?**

Maintaining a journal serves several purposes:

1. A means of communication, conversation (e.g., between material and yourself, yourself and instructors).

2. Provides regular feedback between you and the instructors and helps to match expectations.

3. Platform for synthesis of knowledge and ideas

4. Help develop critical thinking

5. Helps to elicit topics of interest, challenging topics that need improvement, etc.

**What to write?**

First write a brief summary of the contents of a lecture, lab activity, group discussion or reading material. Then reflect upon these activities. Record your own thoughts, ideas, responses and reactions to any of the above activities. Make notes about concepts, questions you have, and any confusion that may arise. Use the journal to explore possible solutions to problems being raised in class or alternative activities to the ones presented in class. Record new insights and problem solving strategies realized during discussions with fellow students and instructors. The journal reflects your own thoughts and ideas. Be as original and critical (constructive) as you can.

Some additional ideas:

Describe any feedback you received or any specific interactions you had.

Discuss how they were helpful Describe your feelings and attitudes What surprised me or caused me to wonder?

What happened that felt particularly challenging? Why was it challenging to me?

What skills and knowledge do I recognize that I am gaining?

What am I realizing about myself as a learner?

In what ways am I able to apply the ideas and concepts gained to my own experience?

**What not to do:**

Do not copy and paste any material from the discussion forum, your own assignment, or any other source.  The entries in the journal must be your own words.

**When do I use the journal?**

You are expected to use the journal for each week of the course.

**How will it be graded?**

Each weekly journal must be at least 500 words long.  Please use proper grammar and keep your writing on the class topic.  Deductions from a full credit on this assignment would be taken if you copy and paste content.  As long as you write down your own reflection about the learning activities, deductions will not be taken.  You will receive a single grade for each week and the grades will count toward your final grade in the course.

During the learning of this week, I started my learning with the reading assignment.

It’s a good start as I read through the introductions and gained a basic understanding of the Joomla development.

The video from the reading assignment helped me to gain an intuitive impression of how the actual plugin development works.

It's not as complicated as I first thought. It's making four files that contain the

Mod\_helloworld.php – the entry point of the module.

Mod\_helloworld.xml – the definitive xml for linking the files and for Joomla to understand the module structure.

Helper.php – contains the helper class that connects the database

Tmpl/default.php - the module template takes the data from the entry point and renders it in HTML.

By coding with the four files, we can create our customized modules for Joomla.

After creating all the necessary files for the module, we need to install the module by uploading the zip files into our Joomla portal. When it's done, we then need to publish the modules that we have created to make them available on the website.

Through reviewing the post from my classmates, I gained various exposure to the different modules and how they can be adapted to the websites. The plugins can be categorized into many types like social media or user input and even database management.

I also learned some interesting modules like JEvents which integrate Google Maps that helps to promote events including either commercial marketing or non-commercial gathering.

AcyMailing is a newsletter and email marketing module which helps to manage marketing activities through email. It helps to glue the marketing activities and save time for sending emails and newsletters for marketing purposes.

JchatSocial is an interesting module that has chat functions for in-portal communications. This is a handy component for in-place small communications like an e-commerce website or small user engagement is necessary.

For internal management, various modules can simplify the administrator tasks like statistics and user status.

For my post, I explored cross-platform activities as well as linking the components from other websites.

This process helps us to reuse handy components or display and link the contents from other resources in a simple way.

Overall, I realized the unlimited possibilities of using Joomla plugins for different purposes and scenarios. It changed my understating of this topic I used to think web development is about making login pages and writing a shopping cart. But to maximize productivity, we have many options to achieve our target instead of writing for our items. For myself, I installed the converted form plugin, it is capable to create many types of forms and we can manage the templates for our forms in the component modules.

It empowers us to achieve what we need instead of marking the code ourselves. I started to realize the last option for achieving a task is coding for it. There are many and probably better options out there that solve the problems elegantly.

After learning and using Joomla, I feel more confident and comfortable delivering a website relating to tasks.