

D. ONLINE COMMUNITIES

Developing a Shared Language for Discussing Networked Learning Systems

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ABSTRACT

New network-based learning systems are coming into use that offer the possibility of integrating curriculum experiences and student information systems as well as changing the metaphor of the Internet from library to workspace. We will call these integrated and process oriented systems Networked Learning Systems (NLS). A NLS is tentatively defined as a program or set of programs designed to operate over a network and support users as they undertake tasks or participate in processes related to learning. CSCL is one type, albeit an important one, of process that can be enabled by NLS. This interactive event is intended to help participants build a shared language to facilitate discussions related to NLS. Through participation in a series of online and face-to-face activities, participants will build knowledge of many networked learning systems currently available, identify important dimensions of these systems, understand what aspects of those dimensions are important and why, and develop an understanding of how the work they are doing relates to the field of NLS. Participants in this session will undertake the online activities within the Shadow netWorkspace™ (SNS) (<http://sns.internetschools.org>), a NLS being developed by the Center for Technology Innovation in Education at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Keywords

Networked Learning Systems, Shadow netWorkspace

EVENT DESCRIPTION

One week prior to the conference, those wishing to participate should email Herbert Remidez at herbert@coe.missouri.edu and notify him that they would like to sign up for the CSCL interactive session titled “Developing a Shared Language for Discussing Networked Learning Systems.” Interested parties will receive directions on how to access a set of activities that guide them through reviewing a collection of similar systems, related white papers, and research publications. While undertaking these activities, participants will use the Shadow netWorkspace’s communication support tools to collaboratively identify important characteristics and dimensions of networked learning systems. Participants will then come together for a face-to-face at the CSCL conference to discuss their findings, continue building a shared vocabulary for discussing NLS, and discussing how their work relates to the field of networked learning systems. To enhance participants’ learning, the co-presenters will interact with participants throughout the online and face-to-face activities.

EXAMPLES

Participants will employ SNS to complete a series of online activities designed to help them build their knowledge of networked learning systems. These activities will guide participants through the exploration and identification of important dimensions of networked learning systems. As part of these activities, participants will employ functions of SNS such as asynchronous and synchronous communication tools, workgroups, and the file management system. A face-to-face session will then follow where participants will undertake activities designed to help them share their new knowledge and continue building a shared vocabulary for discussing NLS.