

## Using Google Sites in Collaborative Inquiry Project-based Learning

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**Abstract:** Dr. Samuel Kai Wah Chu and his research team, who have experience in implementing inquiry project-based learning (IPjBL) with Wiki to four local primary schools, will demonstrate their way of using Google Sites in IPjBL. This session aims to stimulate discussion among researchers and educators on using Wiki to enhance collaboration among students in IPjBL.

### Theme

The demonstration will be based on the experience gained in the QEF project titled “Promoting a collaborative teaching approach to inquiry project-based learning with Web 2.0 at upper primary levels”. The project involves implementation of Google Sites—a free and user-friendly Wiki platform—to Primary 5 students in their inquiry based project in General Studies.

A considerable body of research studies has indicated that inquiry project-based learning (IPjBL) is a far more effective mode of learning than traditional forms of learning. The benefits of IPjBL include the integration of knowledge across disciplines, cultivation of students’ spontaneous curiosity, and development of learning that respects both the intellectual growth and age-specific concerns of students (Dewey, as cited in Dow, 1999, p. 7). IPjBL can also help students develop their critical thinking and problem solving skills, as well as the ability to communicate and collaborate with others (Chu, 2009).

To further benefit students in their inquiry learning, Web 2.0 technologies can be used in conjunction with the IPjBL approach. Students can learn new ways to co-construct group project in the cyberspace. During the process of comprehending, locating, analyzing, evaluating, and synthesizing information, students can apply their knowledge for problem solving in their inquiry projects and, hence, enhancing their information literacy and media literacy (Chu, 2009).

Among all Web 2.0 technologies, Wiki is the most suitable tool for students to do their group project collaboratively. Wikis are commonly used as knowledge management tools to facilitate the creation, sharing, discussion and revision of knowledge artifacts in group projects (Da Lio, Fraboni & Leo, 2005). Wiki software has been applied in various ways in education, including as support for writing individual and group projects, course management and distance education (Bold, 2006; Parker & Chao, 2007). Dr. Chu has conducted several researches on the use of Wiki to promote students’ learning and found that both undergraduate and postgraduate students were positive towards the effectiveness of Wiki in facilitating their group projects. In particular, Wiki was seen to enhance group collaboration as well as work quality, and it was considered a useful tool for knowledge management in terms of knowledge creation and sharing (Chu, 2008; Chu, Cheung, Ma & Leung, 2008).

In addition to providing an online collaborative environment for students to compile their group projects, Wiki enables teachers to scaffold students’ learning by frequently tracking students’ work and commenting on their work during different phases of the project.

Through implementing IPjBL with Wiki to four local primary schools, Dr. Chu has gained valuable experience in guiding teachers to make use of Google Sites in their teaching. In the demonstration, Dr. Chu and his research team will demonstrate their way of using Wiki in IPjBL. However, there is no single right way of using Wiki in IPjBL. Thus, this session aims to stimulate discussion among researchers and educators on using Wiki to enhance collaboration among students in IPjBL.

### Expected Outcomes

After the interactive session:

1. Educators and teachers who are not familiar with Wiki and IPjBL will learn to make use of the new techniques in their teaching.
2. Participants are expected to enhance their knowledge on Wiki and IPjBL through knowledge sharing.
3. The Wiki platform created by the research team can be improved for future use based on the comments of other researchers and practitioners.

## Programme Rundown

Activities	Person in charge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introduction to the QEF project “Promoting a collaborative teaching approach to inquiry project-based learning with Web 2.0 at upper primary levels”</li> <li>● What is inquiry project based learning?</li> <li>● How can Web 2.0 tools, especially Wiki, help students in their collaborative inquiry project based learning?</li> </ul>	Dr. Samuel Kai Wah Chu
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introduction to Google Sites</li> <li>● Demonstration of using Google Sites in inquiry project</li> <li>● Sharing of Google Sites templates created by the research team</li> </ul>	Dr. Samuel Kai Wah Chu and research assistants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The participants will be grouped in several groups (3-4 per group) and they will try to use Google Sites to create a Wiki for collaboration.</li> </ul>	Dr. Samuel Kai Wah Chu and research assistants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Feedback and discussion</li> </ul>	Dr. Samuel Kai Wah Chu

## References

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