What’s a wiki and what can I do with one that I can’t do already?

Friday 27 July 2007
2.00pm - 3.00pm
MSB.4.02

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Abstract
A wiki is a web page that can be easily edited by many people. It can serve as a valuable resource for any project having a goal of either collaborative writing or knowledge building or both. A wiki can be used for course projects or administrative documentation, to write a grant proposal or plan a conference. Any time that many people need to work together to accumulate knowledge or edit documents, a wiki is potentially useful. The most popular application is Wikipedia, but the same application underlying that can be used for many other purposes. This presentation will answer these questions:
What's a wiki?
How does a wiki shape knowledge?
What is the impact on classroom community and student learning?
What's the difference between a wiki and a blog?
What's the difference between a wiki and course management software, such as Desire to Learn?
What are some of the platforms that are available, and the strengths and weaknesses of each?

Leeds-Hurwitz has used a wiki in a multidisciplinary undergraduate research project; helped to develop WiscWiki, the wiki for University of Wisconsin System faculty and staff to use in sharing information about wikis; organized a conference for the UWS on wikis; and most recently, has received a grant to coordinate a series of investigations around the UWS to learn the various ways in which different wikis work in different disciplines for different sorts of projects.

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