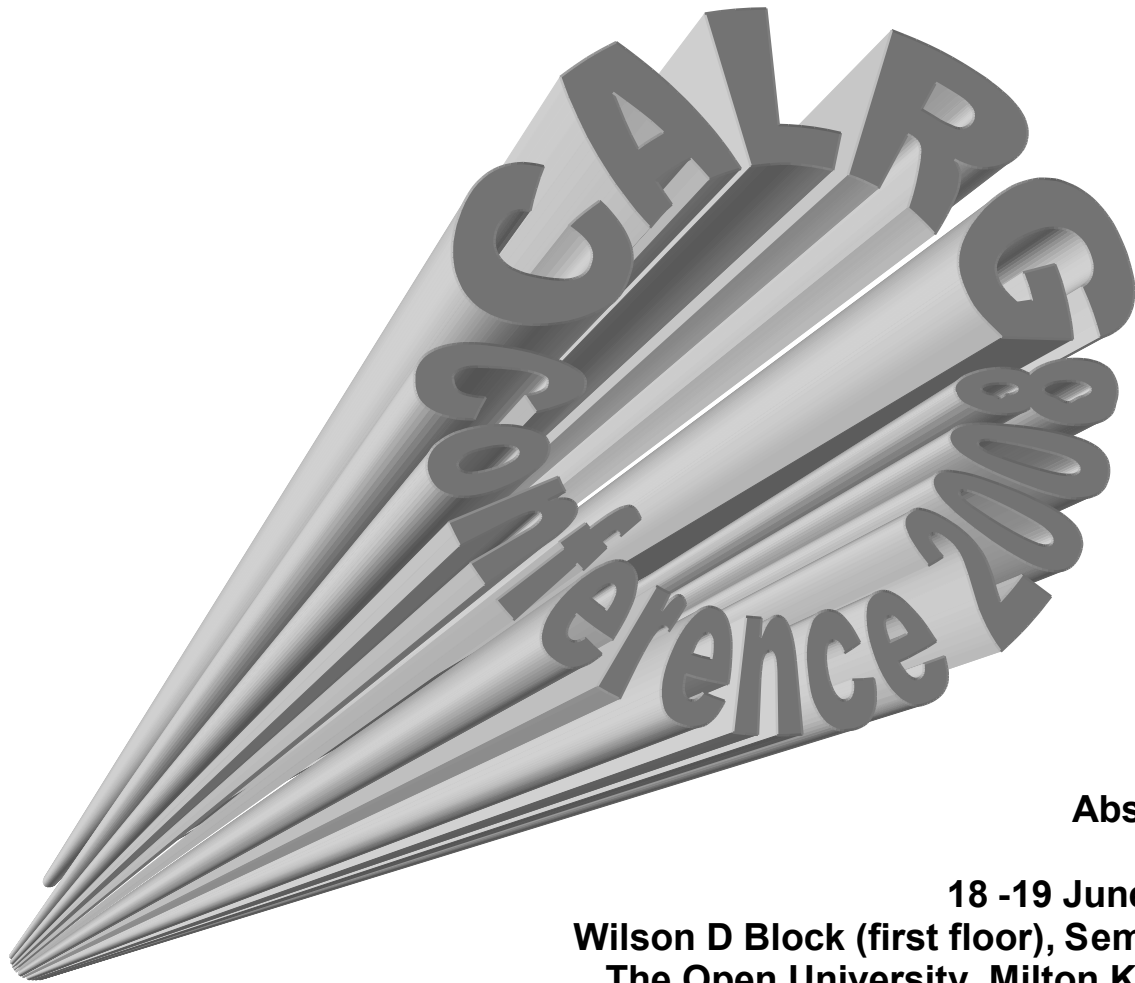




CALRG Conference 2008
Computers and Learning Research Group
29th Annual Conference



Abstracts

18 -19 June 2008
Wilson D Block (first floor), Seminar 4
The Open University, Milton Keynes

Compiled by CananTosunoglu Blake

For further information please visit:

<http://kn.open.ac.uk/public/index.cfm?wpid=5403>

or contact:

Dr. Canan Tosunoglu Blake

c.tosunoglu@open.ac.uk

Institute of Educational Technology
The Open University
Walton Hall
Milton Keynes
MK7 6AA

USING OPENLEARN TOOLS FOR COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

Alexandra Okada, OpenLearn, The Open University OU- UK

Ana Hessel, PUC-SP São Paulo, Brazil

Giovanni Farias, UFCG Paraíba, Brazil

Leonel Tractenberg, UFRJ Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

This paper describes three examples about the uses of knowledge media technologies that may foster collaborative learning. These applications were developed by an OpenLearn Collaborator: CoLearn – “Community of research about Collaborative Learning”. The first example shows the use of Compendium to create web maps about Cyberpsychology (Tractenberg, 2008) in a postgraduate course. The second presents the use of FM to organise seminars about Digital Media (Hessel, 2008) in a graduate course. The third demonstrates the use of FlashVlog to produce Video for online courses (Farias, 2008).

Collaborators	Tool	Participants 'comments	OER	Event
NUTES/UFRJ (Tractenberg)	Compendium	Useful for connecting different resources and studying in groups.	Maps about CyberPsychology	Postgraduate course in Coimbra and Barcelona University
TIDD/ PUC (Hessel)	FM	Useful for developing group strategies, learning the tool and producing seminars.	WebConference Digital Medias	Graduate course in São Paulo Brazil
Moodle Partners (Farias)	FlashVlog	Useful for making online courses clear and more attractive.	MovieClips Video for online courses	Extension of a Workshop for CNIE2008 Conference at Athabasca University

Table 1 - Using OpenLearn tools for collaborative learning in CoLearn Community

This pilot study, which is part of a participatory action research, focuses on CoLearn participants' experiences with these tools with the aim of improving the performance quality of their interactions within this community. The majority of CoLearn participants are from Portuguese-speaking Countries. They are researchers, lecturers and academic students whose interests focus on exploring knowledge media tools to facilitate collaborative learning. Based in different countries (e.g. Brazil, Portugal, Spain and Italy), they use OpenLearn tools to meet online, learn together and create OER. Their interests are focused on social software, learning and teaching strategies.

In the present study, we briefly report some findings from these three examples summarized in Table 1. Colearn participants found Compendium, FM and FlashVlog useful for engaging participants in collaborative learning. They were able to use Compendium for brainstorm in online groups; FM videoconferencing for producing learning resource together and FlashVlog as a teaching multimedia material for engaging participants in collective activities. Their comments also show the importance of learning how to use the tools together in order to face their initial difficulties and solve technical problems.

References

Colearn (2008). Comunidade de Pesquisa sobre Aprendizagem Colaborativa. <<http://labspace.open.ac.uk/colearn>>

Farias, G. (2008). "Vídeo em cursos no Moodle". <<http://labspace.open.ac.uk/gfarias>>

Hessel, A. (2008). "Consciência e Percepção". <<http://labspace.open.ac.uk/course/tidd>>

Tractenberg, L. (2008). "Psicología de las organizaciones y del trabajo en la cibercultura" <<http://labspace.open.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=3311>>