

The Influence of Locus of Control On Teacher Perceptions of Academic Wikis

Andrew V. Moshirnia
University of Kansas

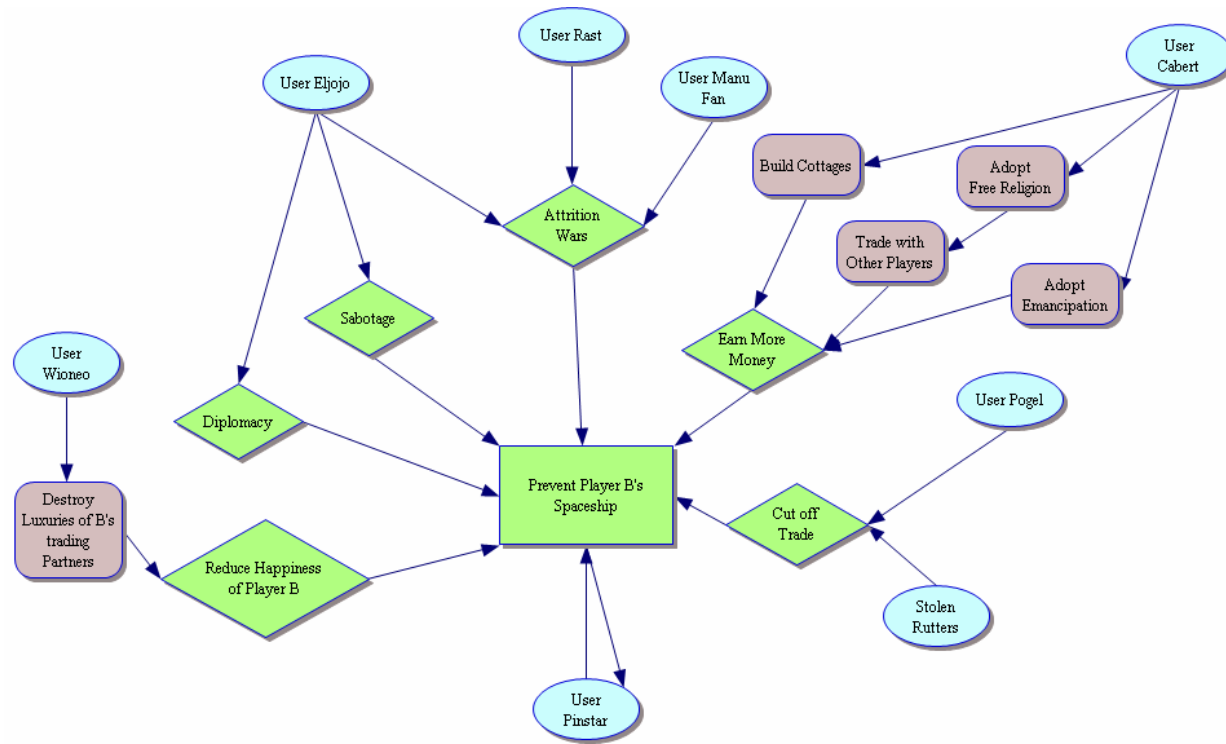


Road Map

- I. Wikis as Academic Tools
 - Definition
- II. Problem: Open Source Wiki Model
- III. Research: Rule Systems and Locus of Control
- IV. Experiment
- V. Results

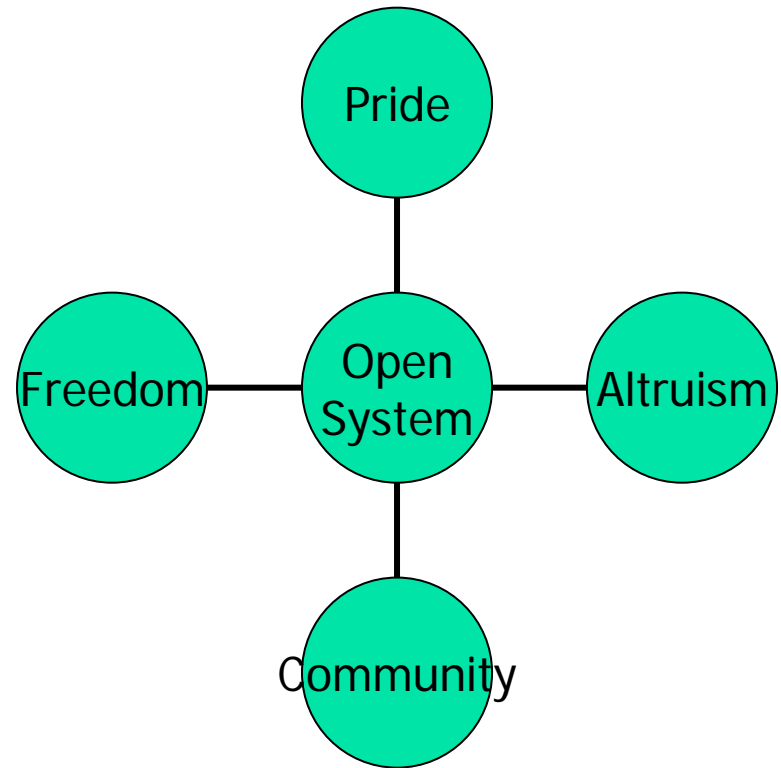
Wiki – Definition

- an “interactive website where... webpages are editable by ...users.” (Wagner & Prasarnphanich, 2007)



Wiki as Open Source Model

- Personal Freedom
- Pride
- Altruism
- Community



Example- Wikipedia.org

WIKIPEDIA

English

The Free Encyclopedia

1 890 000+ articles

Deutsch

Die freie Enzyklopädie

612 000+ Artikel

Français

L'encyclopédie libre

528 000+ articles

日本語

フリー百科事典

392 000+ 記事

Nederlands

De vrije encyclopedie

318 000+ artikelen



Polski

Wolna encyklopedia

404 000+ haseł

Italiano

L'enciclopedia libera

323 000+ voci

Português

A enciclopédia livre

273 000+ artigos

Español

La enciclopedia libre

256 000+ artículos

Svenska

Den fria encyklopedin

240 000+ artiklar

search • suche • rechercher • szukaj • 検索 • ricerca • zoeken
busca • buscar • sök • поиск • 搜索 • haku • søk

English



Example- Battlestarwiki.org

BATTLESTAR WIKI

English
2190 articles

Deutsch
289 artikel

Chinese
66 篇

Español
42 artículos



Fransais
92 articles

Türkçe
24 articles

Media Repository
Pictures and Audio
2203 files

BSW Blog
About the Wiki



Wiki Advantages

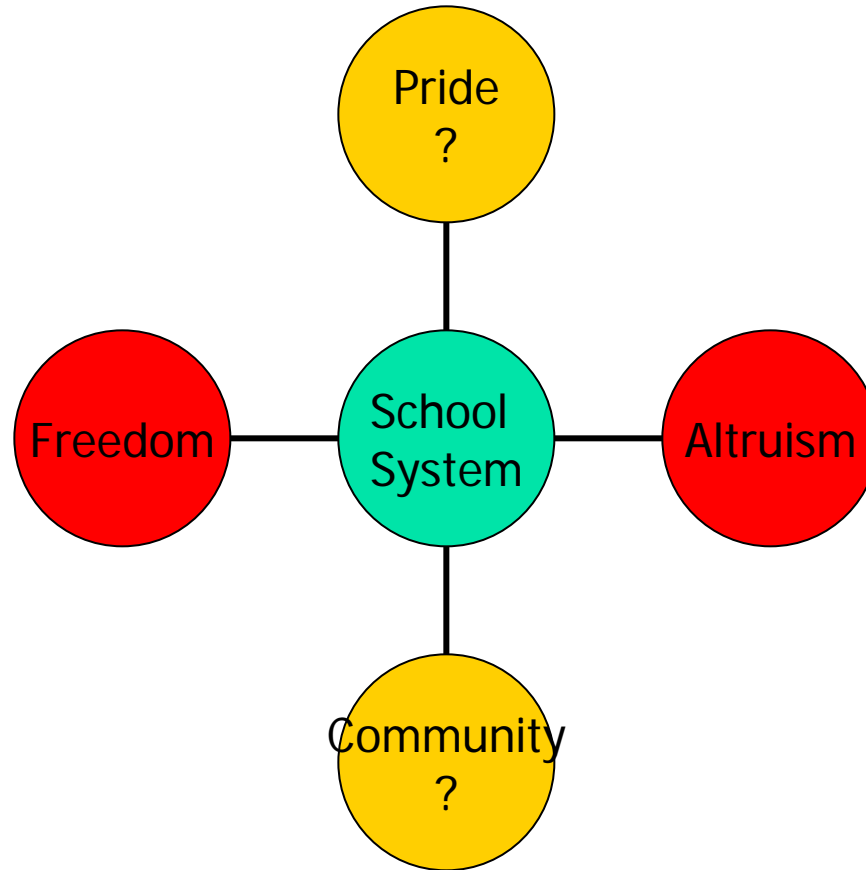
- Collaboration
- Exponential Growth
- Constructivist's Paradise
- Easy to use
- Organization



Problem

- Wiki Open Source Model
- Schools are not “Open Source”
 - Motivations- Points, Grades
 - Personality Types – not self Selected
 - Preselected Content

Motivation Crowding Theory





General Issues before Use

- What personal factors and system characteristics influence perception of wikis?
 - Personal Factor – Locus of Control
 - System Characteristic- Rules Systems
- Will Teachers Use Wikis?

Locus of Control

- “The degree to which an individual believes that he or she is in control of life events”





Why Use Locus of Control?

- Validated Scale (Rotter 1966)
- Huge factor in successful distance learning (Njus and Brockway 1999)
- Perhaps important factor in Wikis



Locus of Control Scale

- 23 matched statements
 - One of the major reasons why we have wars is because people don't take enough interest in politics.
 - There will always be wars, no matter how hard people try to prevent them.



Control Systems

- Modify paradigm of Wiki production
 - Introduce bureaucratic barriers
 - Points and Grading
 - Assigned Subjects?
 - Required Collaboration



Experiment

- 14 student-teachers (N=14), male (n=5), female (n= 9)
- Given Locus of Control Scale
- Exposed to Academic wiki over period of 30 days
- Asked to compare 3 Different Rules Systems

301KU.wikispaces.com



Magister_M · · My Account · He

☆ home page discussion history notify me



Edit This Page

Welcome to 301 and 302

This is the course page for 301 and 302 C&T. The purpose of this site is to provide practical applications for technologies in the classroom. This course is meant to provide you with the time, knowledge, and motivation to create a technology package used in the classroom. In essence, we are here to help each other become better. If there is some other technology that you would like to learn, I will add it to the course.

[Syllabus:](#)

You may view the [syllabus](#) to learn grading and course policies.

Announcements:

Announcements Exemplar: <http://englishkansas.wikispaces.com/>

The last week:

Monday: On the announcements section of your your main page, give me a road map of your assignments on your wiki.

Tuesday: Intro to IWeb and FTP, create your personal portfolio by mapping to NETS standards, "fair use"

Wednesday: Continue work on Portfolio

Thursday: Portfolio due, present portfolio

Friday: InClass Exam

Recent Changes:

New Page
 Recent Changes
 Manage Space

Search

Home

Talk

Class Help

Projects

People

Summary

Technology

Games

Wikis
edit navigation



Rule System – “Open”

- Approximated “Open Source” Wiki
 - Frequency: at least one new article per week.
 - Subject: Free choice
 - Grading: Graded on Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory, suggestions of Improvement



Rule System - "Semi Open"

- Some student Choice but more explicit motivations (Grades, Schedules)
 - Frequency: 18 times to receive an allotted 180 points.
 - Subject: Selected from pre-approved list
 - Grading: Graded on a rubric. Each article graded on a 1 to 10 scale.



Rule System - "Closed"

- Common Classroom Assignment Paradigm
 - Frequency: finish assignment within 7 days
 - Subject: Teacher assigned
 - Grading: Graded on a 4 section rubric. Each section graded on a 1 to 3 scale.



Survey

- Given after Wiki use
- Likert 5 point scale
- Assessed
 - Comfort with wiki
 - Pride in work on wiki
 - Wiki Use
 - System Preference



Future Use- Yes

- Will teachers use Wikis? YES
- Teachers wanted Wikis
 - In their pedagogy Classes
 - In their OWN Classrooms



Future Use- Yes

Table 1: Desire to Use Wikis in Future Classes

LOCUS OF CONTROL	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION	SIGNIFICANCE
Internal	4.67	.50	
External	4.20	.84	.21

Table 2: Desire to Use Wikis as Instructors

LOCUS OF CONTROL	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION	SIGNIFICANCE
Internal	4.78	.44	
External	4.40	.55	.18



Rules System Preference

- Complex Results
 - Semi-Open system preferred overall
 - Teachers with External Locus → Hate Semi



System Preference – Balanced

Table 4: Tally of Preferred Rule Systems

RULES SYSTEM	FREQUENCY SELECTED	% OF CLASS
Open	5	35.7
Semi Open	7	50.0
Closed	1	7.1

Table 5: Teacher Ratings of Rule Systems

RULES SYSTEM	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION
Open	3.35	1.08
Semi Open	3.79	1.19
Closed	2.86	.86



Locus of Control and Rules

Table 6: Ratings of Semi Open

LOCUS OF CONTROL	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION	SIGNIFICANCE
Internal	4.44	.53	
External	2.60	1.14	.001



Pride in Wiki- Yes

- Teacher report large amount of pride in wiki creation
- Again, due to such positive responses no significant difference



Pride in Wiki

Table 3: Teacher Pride in Wiki Posts

LOCUS OF CONTROL	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION	SIGNIFICANCE
Internal	4.67	.71	.
External	4.00	.71	.11



Qualitative Results

- External Incentives = +Posts +Edits
 - But less pride in Accomplishment
 - Use restrictive control system if goal is more posts
 - Use open system if goal is creativity



Overall Class Opinions

- Wiki useful way to introduce new knowledge
- Wiki seen as helpful for both learner and instructor
- Wiki used as information organizer, not social collaboration



Conclusions

- Wikis can be useful tools in classroom
 - But a super structure is needed to ensure use
 - Teachers with external locus of control may require more rigid rule systems
 - Wikis can be used as interactive note books and course organizers without significant modification