Advances in knowledge building theory, pedagogy, and technology throughout the international Institute for Knowledge Innovation and Technology

Marlene Scardamalia

Institute for Knowledge Innovation and Technology University of Toronto



Centre for Information Technology in Education



Empowering Communities Transforming Learning

CITE Research Symposium 2008

5 - 7 June 2008

Empowering Communities and Transforming Learning

CITE Research Symposium 2008 5 - 7 June 2008





Centre for Information Technology in Education



Knowledge Society: Bringing Ideas Into the World

- Philosopher--Pierre Lévy *Emergence in cyberspace:* A new 'knowledge space' linked to the evolution of *new knowledge*
- Economist--Paul Romer *Health and wealth of nations:* Economic viability tied to the generation of *new knowledge*
- Management Guru--Peter Drucker Social transformations: "Education will become the center of the knowledge society"

How are *"Knowledge Creation"* and *"Knowledge Building"* Related?

- They are synonymous.
- "Knowledge creation" (1 million Google references) is the term commonly used in business and research laboratory contexts.
- "Knowledge building"(.5 million Google references) is more commonly used in educational and NGO contexts.
- We prefer "knowledge building" in educational contexts: it is less difficult to believe children can build knowledge than that they can create it; the process is the same.

Pedagogical Shift of Greatest Consequence: From Guided Discovery to Knowledge Creation

Guided Discovery is Essentially Belief Mode Activity: Hypothesis Testing

Knowledge Creation is Working with Ideas in Design Mode: Theory Development and Explanatory Coherence

Beyond Learning to Knowledge Building

- Beyond an effort to keep abreast of advancing knowledge to contributing to its advancement
- Beyond cultural replication and lifelong learning to lifelong innovation



Ideas

Sustained Innovation



Sustained Innovation









Scientists, scholars, and employees of highly innovative companies engage in knowledge building as a normal part of their work.

A growing number of innovative teachers are creating knowledge building communities in their classrooms, and demonstrating significant advances in areas across the curriculum, along with basic literacy, graphical and computer literacy, and a host of 21st-century abilities such as team-work, problem solving, idea creation and improvement.

Knowledge Building: Transforming Educational Dynamics

Local Communities: Producing knowledge of value to their community, and continually improving it Globally Linked Communities: Producing knowledge of value to communities beyond the local community, and enjoying symmetries of knowledge advancement

Transformation I: Educational Experience Centred on *Creative Work with Ideas*—Not Tasks or Activities

Rise-above note on "Rainbows"



Transformation II: Knowledge Work Conducted in *Design Mode* As Well As *Belief Mode*

Design mode and belief mode are distinguished mainly by the kinds of questions asked

Belief Mode

- What does this statement mean? (comprehension)
- Is it true?
- Is it logical?
- What's the evidence?
- What are the arguments for and against?

Design Mode

- What is this idea good for?
- What does it do and fail to do?
- Does it have a future?
- How could this idea be improved?

Help students work in design mode by contributing to the collective creative effort

- asking stimulating questions
- finding answers to questions on the Web
- explaining
- theorizing
- using analogies
- identifying possible causes
- thinking of design improvements
- developing half-baked ideas into well-worked-out ideas
- constructive criticism
- using diagrams to communicate and analyze
- negotiating and persuading
- anticipating problems
- restating others' points of view
- combining seemingly unrelated ideas
- producing realistic action plans
- seeking alternative solutions to problems

Advantages of Focus on "Ways of Contributing" to Public Knowledge

- Focus is on observable things that people do in creative knowledge work
- Student are engaged in ways they can reasonably *try* to get better at

Implication:

- Engage ALL students in collaborative creative knowledge building
- Call attention to ways different students are contributing
- Help students recognize ways they could improve their overall contributions
- Develop ways of contributing that draw on their unique strengths and inclinations.

Transformation III: Emphasis on Research-Based and Principled Knowledge Work, with Shared Responsibility for Idea Improvement

Ways of Contributing: Democratization of Knowledge Collective Responsibility for Idea Improvement



Shallow Constructivism	Rating/ Example	Deep Constructivism	Rating/ Example
Collaborative Learning> Community Knowledge			
COLLABORATIVE LEARNING		COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE; COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY	
Differential Participation > Equitable Participation in Knowledge Work			
INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES		DEMOCRATIZING KNOWLEDGE	
Authenticity: Teacher> Student Point of View			
MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES		REAL IDEAS, AUTHENTIC PROBLEMS	
Canonical Knowledge> New Knowledge			
CURRICULUM		IDEA DIVERSITY	
Belief Mode/Right-Wrong> Design Mode/ Continual Improvement			
INQUIRY: QUESTION-ANSWER		IMPROVABLE IDEAS	
Comprehending/Finding Answers> Advancing the State of Knowledge			
UNDERSTANDING GIVEN INFORMATION		CONSTRUCTIVE USES OF AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES	
Self-Regulation/Student Choice> Taking Charge at the Highest Levels			
STUDENT INPUT /CHOICE		EPISTEMIC AGENCY	
Truth> Ever-Advancing Understanding			
DISCIPLINED DISCOURSE	Ľ	KNOWLEDGE BUILDING DISCOURSE	
Best Practice> Beyond Best Practice			
CONSENSUS		RISE ABOVE	
Guided Dis	scovery> Kno	wledge Creation	
HIGHER-ORDER THINKING		PERVASIVE KNOWLEDGE BUILDING	
Externally Defined Benchmarks> Self Organization			
STANDARDS		CONCURRENT, EMBEDDED AND TRANSFORMATIVE ASSESSMENT	
Local Community> Global Community			
HIGH-PERFORMING CLASSES		SYMMETRIC KNOWLEDGE ADVANCEMENT	

Knowledge-based societies and economies need to engage in practices fine- tuned to knowledge creation Advanced Information Technology Specially Designed for Knowledge Creation

Thowledge Building Solledge Building Cial Innovation

Brazil

Ispe

Actinover Innover

Canada

Principle-Based Dynamics of Knowledge Building

Jianwei Zhang, Marlene Scardamalia, Richard Reeve, Richard Messina

Collective Responsibility for Idea Improvement

- Social dynamics in knowledge creation (e.g., Csikszentmihalyi, 1999; Brown & Duguid, 2000).
- Sustained, creative knowledge work can be better supported through distributed, flexible, adaptive, social structures (Amar, 2002; Chatzkel, 2003; Sawyer, 2003; Williams & Yang, 1999).

A Spectrum of Designs

Fixed Small-Groups

Specialized- Interacting-Group Group **Opportunistic-Collaboration**



Cliques (sub-communities)

Year 1: Specialized-group



Year 2: Interacting-group



Year 3: opportunistic-collaboration



Mean number of inquiry themes about which a student reported knowledge advances in his/her portfolio note ($\underline{F}(2, 63) = 64.14, p < .001$).



Student ideas were rated based on scientificness and depth/complexity. ($\underline{F}(2, 63) = 5.69, p < .01, \underline{\eta}^2 = 0.15$).

Innovation Must Become Part of the Normal Way of Life in Education at All Levels

Peter Drucker:

"When innovation is perceived... as ... a heroic achievement, there will be no innovation. Innovation must be part and parcel of the ordinary, the norm, if not routine."
Knowledge Society: Beyond Brainstorming to Bringing Ideas Into the World

The challenge in all knowledge-based organizations is *sustained creativity*.

Working with and developing ideas into powerful and useful processes, products, or theories.

Coming up with the initial idea represents one small step; creative knowledge workers are able to make something of the idea.



Knowledge Building in Singapore









"Ideas First" Research Site: Singapore Primary School

- Ideas First is a two-year science curriculum developed for Primary 3 and Primary 4 classrooms developed by researchers at the Singapore Learning Sciences Lab in collaboration with teachers at a primary school
- 11 teachers (6 P3 and 5 P4) using IDEAS First model since January 2006 (500+ students)
- Science Head-of-Department is a former P6 teacher who used Knowledge Forum in his own classes
- Because computers are not part of the classroom, we introduce physical transitioning mechanisms in the first 6 months of P3 as a way of supporting the development of a knowledge building culture. In this way, the everyday functioning of the classroom changes, rather than knowledge building being something "outside of class, down in the lab"

<u>Researching</u> Knowledge Building Communities in Classrooms

Can we build a theory of how to support teachers and students in making a transition from Knowledge Telling Classrooms (KTC) to KBC?





Our Research is Guided the Social Infrastructure Framework

Social Infrastructure Framework



(Bielaczyc, 2006; Bielaczyc & Collins, 2006)

Shifting the Social Infrastructure of the Classroom



Shifting the Culture

New Curriculum and Classroom **Practices that Embody KB Principles**



many with the cent of the class. It can be on axiaal that lives on bred, in the water, that thes, or is a "strange structur". When my put my ideas regather, the work that I contribute on my animal My united in

there is an internating fact that I want to share. This is this include the fire and four love and new ust

Harse or a prhoto, or a desining of the anomal



Ideas at the Center

Transitioning Mechanisms to Support Shifting the Culture

"Think Cards"



My idea is

Something I wonder about



Knowledge Building Norway – status 2008

- Looking back:
 - Presenting Knowledge Building principles as part of large scale development programs since 2000.
 - One project Univ. of Oslo and Bergen + schools 2000-2003, using FLE.
 - Two lower secondary schools using KF as part of project based learning 2005-2006.





Initiatives at present

- Research project funded ny Research Council, title 'StudentResearch' (ElevForsk) (2007-2011
- Knowledge building has become a central part of a large scale development program for Norwegian schools called 'Learning Networks', combining 10 schools and one teacher training college to collaborate in networks. All together about 500 schools and 21 teacher training colleges have taken part in this until now.
- Several sub-projects:
 - For example, Upper Secondary schools are using KF and knowledge building principles across the curriculum, mainly science. Researchers from University of Oslo. Piloting 2007-08, full scale 2008-11.









Literacy as a By-Product of Knowledge Building

Yanqing Sun, Jianwei Zhang, Marlene Scardamalia

Institute for Knowledge Innovation and Technology, OISE/UT

Rather than treating literacy as a prerequisite for knowledge work, we treat knowledge work as the preferred medium for developing the many literacies that support it.

Rationale

- Two challenges facing education:
 - To raise literacy of all students, close gaps;
 - To develop creative capacity
- Literacy as a complex social practice is best learned through dialogic communication and apprenticeship into literate discourse communities (Applebee, Langer, Nystrand, & Gamoran, 2003).
- Knowledge building: Engage students in creative knowledge work, with literacy as a by-product.

Contexts

- A class of 22 students in Grade 3 and then 4;
- KB/KF over two school years.





Figure 2. The percentage of the 1st 1000 words in each student's writing.



Figure 4. The percentage of academic words in each student's writing.

e.g., theory, evidence, hypothesis, approach, challenge, clarify, identify, expand, adjust, category, conclude



<u>Table 6</u>. Correlations (Pearson <u>r</u> and <u>p</u>) between StudentsÕ<u>Spelling</u> and Vocabulary Scores on CTBS (Grade 4) and the <u>Lexical</u> <u>Frequency Profiles</u> of Their Online Discourse in the First and Second Half of Grade 4.

	% of 1st	% of	% of	% of 1st	% of	% of	# of words	s# of words
	1,000	2nd	academi c	1,000	2nd	academi c	be yon d	be yon d
	words	1,000	words (1 st	words	1,000	words (2 nd	Grade 4	Grade 4in
	(1 st half)	words	half)	(2 nd	words	half)	(1 st half)	(2 nd half)
		(1 st half)		half)	(2 nd half)			
Spelling	51*	.42	.44*	45*	.43*	.23	.38	.43*
score	(.015)	(.054)	(.042)	(.034)	(.047)	(.307)	(.086)	(.049)
Vocabulary	27	.36	.03	52*	.38	.01	.40	.58**
score	(.226)	(.099)	(.904)	(.012)	(.083)	(.979)	(.063)	(.005)

* <u>p</u> < .05; ** <u>p</u> < .01 (two-tailed).

Correlations (Pearson <u>r</u> and <u>p</u>) between StudentsÕ<u>Literacy Scores</u> on CTBS (Grade 4) and Their Participation in Online <u>Knowledge</u>

Building Discourse over the Two School Years.

	% of notes	# of notes	# of words
	read	written	written
Spelling score	.39	.38	.49*
	(.074)	(.081)	(.021)
Vocabulary	.41	.39	.53*
score	(.056)	(.070)	(.012)
Reading score	.41	.36	.45*
	(.058)	(.097)	(.036)

* P < .05 (two-tailed).

Graphical Literacy

Yongcheng Gan

% of graphics to total notes





Bringing Teachers to Summer Institute

- Establishing connections
- Planning for international collaboration





International Student Conference

- Students as scholars
- Working with ideas in international knowledge building community





Tomorrow's Innovators @ Summer Institute

 Face-to-face chance for students to build knowledge with peers around the world



Teacher Professional Development

- Accumulate curriculum integration models
- Scalable and sustainable international teacher and school network













View: Welcome - Bienvenidos

File Edit Objects Go View Layout Windows

Knowledge Building Workshop Taller de la Construcción del Conocimiento

Dimensions of Difference



Scenarios

Links

i



Proyecto Bicentenario

🛶 Bicentenario

0 of 12 selected.

Shallow Constructivism	Rating/ Example	Deep Constructivism	Rating/ Example							
Collaborative Learning> Community Knowledge										
COLLABORATIVE LEARNING		COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE; COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY								
Differential Participation > Equitable Participation in Knowledge Work										
INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES		DEMOCRATIZING KNOWLEDGE								
Authenticity: Teacher> Student Point of View										
MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES		REAL IDEAS, AUTHENTIC PROBLEMS								
Canonical H	(nowledge> 1	New Knowledge								
CURRICULUM		IDEA DIVERSITY								
Belief Mode/Right-Wrong> Design Mode/ Continual Improvement										
INQUIRY: QUESTION-ANSWER		IMPROVABLE IDEAS								
Comprehending/Finding Answers> Advancing the State of Knowledge										
UNDERSTANDING GIVEN INFORMATION		CONSTRUCTIVE USES OF AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES								
Self-Regulation/Student Choice> Taking Charge at the Highest Levels										
STUDENT INPUT /CHOICE		EPISTEMIC AGENCY								
Truth> E	ver-Advancing	Understanding								
DISCIPLINED DISCOURSE	Ľ	KNOWLEDGE BUILDING DISCOURSE								
Best Practice> Beyond Best Practice										
CONSENSUS		RISE ABOVE								
Guided Dis	scovery> Kno	wledge Creation								
HIGHER-ORDER THINKING		PERVASIVE KNOWLEDGE BUILDING								
Externally Defined Benchmarks> Self Organization										
STANDARDS		CONCURRENT, EMBEDDED AND TRANSFORMATIVE ASSESSMENT								
Local Community> Global Community										
HIGH-PERFORMING CLASSES		SYMMETRIC KNOWLEDGE ADVANCEMENT								





Baccalaureate in Knowledge Building: A year of principle-based design with professors and students, 2007-2008

Issues Arising:

--all subjects? --all professors ?

--saturation on parallel discussions across courses taken simultaneously?

--if innovation must be "part and parcel" of the process, how is it possible to innovate in several subjects simultaneously?



Context:

240 students in Puebla, 60 in Tlaxcala and 90 in Veracruz

Knowledge Building possibly introduced into the system of Jesuits schools in Mexico with near 12 000 students.


KBIP May 23, Session A



Eg 1

How do Barcelona students' note help my inquiry?



Eg 3







(2006-2011)

EC's Information Society Technologies program, Technology-Enhanced Learning

www.kp-lab.org

Knowledge-creation perspective: Trialogic Model

- Developing shared objects (epistemic artefacts) in long-term processes
- Ideas (questions, theories), plans, designs, products, or practices being reflected on
- Extended, sustained process
- Rely on technologymediation
- Trialogue between individual, community, and objects

Instrument: shared space





- Coherence of KP-Lab requires integration of these three fundamental aspects.

- It is a disturbance if only one or two of them are addressed in epistemic artifacts created in the KP-Lab project







Psychological, pedagogical and sociological models for learning and assessment in virtual communities of practice



6-7 marzo 2008 Aula Nievo - Cortile Antico Palazzo del Bo Via VIII Febbraio, 2 Padova

	English Italian
congress	







Quebec, Canada

- The learning environment of elementary school learners in remote rural areas is enriched by the use of collaborative technologies. When students engage in inquiry and knowledge building with students from other schools, learning outcomes include heightened motivation (in progress), 4th graders better results at the PIRLS, and a higher presence of explanation (Bordage, 2007) in students' written discourse.
 - Participating teachers and other actors of the educational system are to be credited for their openness in engaging students in creative thinking.
 - Exemplars of use of Knowledge Forum with a focus on real problems and authentic questioning are provided at the following url: <u>http://www.eer.qc.ca/projets/sciences.html</u>





Premier cycle

- Projet sur le système solaire
- Les insectes
- La neige

Deuxième cycle

- Bibi la bille
- Coco le héros

Troisième cycle

- Gravité
- Robotique
- Comment les oiseaux et les avions font-ils pour voler?
- Un oeuf à la mer!
- Acides et bases
- Les changements climatiques



Tools to Support Concurrent, Embedded and Transformative

Assessment





Results for the Group "Iberopuebla" (Total Note Contributions = 283)

Expert Corpus







Writing



Facts

* the trees in the wood chips next to the school were in blossom.

* the trees in the wood chips near the climbers were not in bloom

* the first trees had leaves and flower blassoms The second trees didnt have leaves ar blossoms

* Spring is when things are supposed to blossome

Explanations

to one bunch of tres

* maybe they are different kinds of trees

* maybe they are different ages

* maybe some of the trees got not as much sun of rain

* maybe some of the trees died in the winter

x maybe they were planted at different times

* sprinklers might not have worked



Knowledge Building, as far as we know, stands alone among educational approaches in relying primarily on work in design mode to engage students with deep disciplinary knowledge and to overcome misconceptions and wrong beliefs.

