

Initial Plan - Web-based System for Social Curation of Live Lecture Note Collaboration Sessions

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Project Description

Website to enable creation and navigation of collaborative documents disseminating shared events, such as lectures and conferences, where multiple attendees might benefit from a shared knowledge base cementing and propounding upon the content of a given presentation. It will focus on being an aid to undergraduate study, but should be adaptable to other use cases such as conferences/summits and more generic, structured knowledge propagation. Key to this will be providing a platform to associate these documents in a structured format, such as in a series of sessions around a university module and timetable, or a conference schedule. In order to enable users to find such structures relevant to them, the website will make use of location-aware web browsers and users' social graphs (via social networks such as Facebook or Google+) to suggest topics, organizations and groupings which are likely to be pertinent to them as individuals.

Project Aims and Objectives

Basic objectives for project success:

1. Assess existing options for users to the problem of sharing knowledge between peers in an educational context.
2. Work with university students to ensure the creation of a solution which meets their needs and expectations for sharing information and learning so as to improve their understanding of their subject(s) of study.
3. Using appropriate technologies, develop a web interface which enables any student or teacher to create digital structures around which notes can be organized, based upon the typical instruments of tuition in the UK (lectures, seminars, &c.), as well allowing different and broader structures for less defined purposes, such as conferences.
4. Provide a means for simultaneous, group collaboration of note-taking sessions linked to these structures, which can be accessed before, during and after an educational event (such as a lecture) has taken place, or without relation to any particular event (such as notes on a general topic relating to the subject or its study).

5. Make organizational structures and individual note sessions searchable to all users, and provide them with suggested structures and sessions that they may wish to join, based upon indicators such as location and their social graph.

Extension objectives (possible if time permits):

6. Launch this website and field test it, seeking feedback from users to report improvements, bugs and comments. Use this feedback to improve the website in response.

Work Plan

Autumn Semester 2011:

Weeks(s)	Intended Outcome
1-2	Initial meetings with supervisor; project plan submission
3	Competitive analysis of existing competition; analysis of existing services which may be integrated into this project
4	Selection of web technologies; learning to use them
5-7	User stories generation with sample user base; first iteration of project aimed at providing rudiments of a useable system
7-9	User feedback on first iteration; improvements based on user feedback; second iteration of project adding new features based on needs of users
10-11	Writing and submission of Interim report, based on research and early findings/design decisions

Spring Semester 2012:

Week(s)	Intended Outcome
1-4	User feedback; development of third iteration of project. Note: if project is ready at this stage to be tested more widely at this point, I would like to extend the test subjects to all users in my year at the School of Computer Science & Infomatics for field trial in second semester of the academic year.
5-9	User feedback; development of fourth iteration of project
10-11	Drafting and submission of final report.