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# *Wikis*

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## *Wiki, and its history*

- ❑ A collaborative technology for organizing information
  - a website that allows visitors to add, remove, edit and change content.
  - allow for linking among any number of pages
- ❑ First wiki was developed by Ward Cunningham in the mid-1990s, inspired by Apple's HyperCard program (WikiWikiWeb)
- ❑ **Wikipedia** is the best known wiki
  - enables people connect, collaborate in content creation
  - membership voluntary, reputations earned by winning trust
  - members define the mission and govern the community



# Wikis in the landscape (O'Reilly 2005)

## Web 1.0

DoubleClick  
Ofoto  
Akamai  
mp3.com  
Britannica Online  
personal websites  
evite  
domain name speculation  
page view  
screen scraping  
publishing  
content management system  
directories (taxonomy)  
stickiness  
surfing  
XHTML, Java

## Web 2.0

Google AdSense  
Flickr  
BitTorrent  
Napster  
Wikipedia  
blogging  
upcoming.org  
search engine optimization  
cost per click  
web services  
participation  
wikis  
tagging (folksonomy)  
syndication  
RSS  
Ajax



- ❑ Downes: “heralding the most significant technological development in online teaching and learning since the introduction of Learning Management Systems (LMS)”
- ❑ Pedagogical reasons: supporting interaction, collaboration, encouraging critical thinking, reflection and debate → knowledge building through sharing



## *Technology behind*

- ❑ Database for creating, browsing and searching information
- ❑ Pages, which are usually highly interconnected via hyperlinks
- ❑ Simple markup language using a web browser
  - Style and syntax can vary, some also allow HTML tags
  - Some recent wiki engines use WYSIWYG (JavaScript or an ActiveX)
- ❑ Ease of use (?)
- ❑ Many edits can be made in real-time
- ❑ Generally, there is no review before modifications are accepted
- ❑ Many wikis are open
- ❑ Sometimes session log-in is requested
- ❑ Private wiki servers require user authentication to edit, sometimes to read pages



## *Wikis in educational use*

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- ❑ <http://wikipedia.org/>
  - <http://www.wikiversity.org/>
- ❑ <http://reve.europace.org/drupal/>
- ❑ [http://www2.cs.hut.fi/~petri/wiki/index.php?title=Main\\_Page](http://www2.cs.hut.fi/~petri/wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page)



## *Selecting wiki*

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- ❑ Integration of the wikis to current LMS
- ❑ SS tools
  1. Well known SS services – mainly for small courses
  2. Educational Social Software tools
- ❑ Lots of tools available, most important features:
  - Page history
  - WYSIWYG
  - Install your own/hosted
- ❑ <http://www.wikimatrix.org/>



# Comparing blogs and wikis

Guth 2006

<b>Blogs</b>	<b>Wikis</b>
Chronological organization	Organized by content
Sharing of opinions	Repository of shared knowledge
Encourage individual reflection	Require students to explore collective uses and negotiations of knowledge
Promote individual ownership of writing	Promote letting go of ownership of writing
Interaction (comments)	Collaboration
Linear process	Non-linear process
Blogs are “cool”	Challenges the epistemological position of most traditional institutions