LATTE Wiki

A wiki is a collection of collaboratively authored web documents. Basically, a wiki page is a web page everyone in your class can create together, right in the browser, without needing to know HTML. A wiki starts with one front page. Each author can add other pages to the wiki by simply creating a link to a page that doesn't exist yet.

Click on this link to watch a Lynda video on creating a Wiki in LATTE.

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Creating a Wiki

- Log into Latte and open the course page
- With the editing turned on, in the section you wish to add your wiki, click the "Add an activity or resource" link (or, if not present, the "Add an activity" drop down menu )and choose Wiki.
- This will take you to the wiki settings page titled "Adding a new wiki". All settings expanded by clicking the "Expand all" link top right.
- In an existing wiki, the wiki settings can be found in Administration > Wiki administration > Edit settings.

Wiki name

- The name you give to your wiki here will appear as the link on the course page for your students to click.

Wiki description

- Explain the purpose of your wiki here. (This description may or may not be compulsory depending on your admin's settings.)

Display description on course page

If this box is checked, then the description you added above will appear with the wiki link on the course page.

Wiki mode

- Choose between "Individual wiki" where each student gets their own, or "Collaborative wiki" where students work together on a single wiki.

First page name

- The name you add here will form the first page of your new wiki. It is a required field and once a name has been entered, it can't be changed.

Creating the first page

- Once the wiki is set up, a user will click the link and reach the following screen:
Adding more pages

- Type the name of your page inside double brackets. (1 in screenshot below) You can preview it by clicking the "preview" button towards the bottom of the screen.
- Press the "save" button.
- Now click the (red) link for one of the pages (2 in screenshot below) and you will be prompted to create it in the same way you create the first page (3 in screenshot below):
Wiki Editing

Depending on the type of the wiki, there are several ways to edit your page. But don't worry: The best thing of a wiki is, that nothing is lost. The old version will be there - and if someone changes your version of the page - your version will also be there. Note that the options for editing, commenting viewing history, map and files may all be accessed both from tabs at the top.

View

• The View tab at the top or link in the navigation block allows users to display and view the wiki page.

Edit

• The Edit tab at the top or link in the navigation block allows users to edit the wiki page.

Comments

• The Comments tab at the top or link in the navigation block allows users to see and add comments about the wiki.
History

- The History tab at the top or link in the navigation block allows users to see what has been altered in the wiki.
- Compare edits by clicking the "Compare Selected" button.
- Click the "Restore" button of the version you wish to restore if the latest edit is unsuitable.

Map

- The Map tab at the top or link in the navigation block allows users to view areas of the wiki such as a list of pages (as in the following screenshot), updated or orphaned pages etc. (Orphaned pages are pages not linked to anywhere.)
- To select what you want to see, click the Map menu dropdown box.

Files

- The Files tab at the top or link in the navigation block allows users to access any files which have been added to the wiki.
- By default, the Teacher role can add and manage files to the Files tab, but the Student role can only view them. You could change this though with a permissions override to the Manage wiki files capability (mod/wiki:managefiles) in any particular wiki.

Administration

- The Administration tab at the top or link in the navigation block is available to editing teachers in the course so they can delete page versions or selected pages. Clicking the "list all" button will list available pages to delete. The first page of the wiki cannot be deleted.

Ideas for using wikis

Group lecture notes

Creating a wiki for group lecture notes after a lecture gives students a chance to combine all their notes. Those that missed information can get it from their peers. The group can also decide what information is critical and give it proper emphasis. Group lecture notes could be done with the entire class, if it is small enough, or with small working groups. Groups can also compare notes for further discussion and refinement.

Group Project management

A teacher assigning a group project can give students a place to work by creating a wiki with the group mode enabled. This will give each group their own space to record research, to develop outlines and to create the final product.

Brainstorming

Brainstorming is a non-judgmental group creative process in which group members are encouraged to give voice to any ideas they personally consider relevant to the group exercise. In a face-to-face meeting, a brainstorming facilitator will usually stand in front of a big piece of paper and elicit ideas from the participants in the room. A teacher can create an online version of this process by setting up a wiki for the entire class or for smaller student groups and asking people to submit ideas around a brainstorming topic. People can add ideas as they occur and link to other pages for elaboration.

Contribute to other wikis

A teacher might assign his or her class the task of contributing to Wikipedia, Wikiversity, or to another wiki on the Web, on any class topic, perhaps by assigning students to groups (or making it a class project if the class is small enough and the topic broad enough) and challenging them to collaboratively create an article they would feel confident posting to a public-information space. Students will use the course wiki to create drafts of the article they will eventually publish to the community at the end of the semester.

Collaborative story-telling

Younger students could be encouraged to work together on a wiki to build up a story - each adding a sentence following on from the previous contribution.
Thinking of using a Wiki in your course? E-mail latte@brandeis.edu for a consultation today!

Related articles

- LATTE
- Latte for Students
- Latte for Instructors
- What's new in LATTE, January 2019
- Level Up