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<td><strong>Author(s)</strong></td>
<td>Yuen, J</td>
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The mind beyond time and space:
Online collaborative knowledge building using Knowledge Forum

Learning Community Project, CITE, HKU
Knowledge Management & Learning

- Latest technology enables global sharing of information across platform and continents.
- Knowledge management is a logical extension of the Information Society.
- An attempt to cope with the explosion of information.
Basic Elements of KM

- Accessing, evaluating, managing, organizing, filtering, and distributing information
- Useful to end users
- Professional judgement
- KM is about enhancing the use of organizational knowledge through sound practices of information management and organizational learning
- More than managing information flows
Knowledge Forum and knowledge building and management

Knowledge Forum (KF)

- Knowledge Forum provides a computer-supported intentional learning environment for knowledge building and knowledge management
- It is initiated by a Canadian graduate school of education, the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education in the University of Toronto.
What is Knowledge Forum?

- Knowledge Forum® is a problem-centered collaborative knowledge medium that operates over a computer network.
KF DEMONSTRATION
Knowledge Forum includes knowledge building and management tools for:

- Collaborating
- Building idea networks
- Constructing, storing, and retrieving notes
- Referencing, quoting, and tracking notes
- Identifying knowledge gaps or advances
- Viewing the knowledge database from multiple perspectives
Enhance students’ knowledge-building ability

- Traditionally, schools are dominated by the teacher-led chalk-and-talk approach. Most of the time, there may not be enough time for students to discuss because of the tight teaching schedule and arrangement.
- KF can provide a room for students to have discussion and to develop their independent and critical thinking. Through the discussion and mutual learning process, students are actually forming a knowledge-building community. And in this community, students have to produce, share and advance the knowledge of the collective.
• The roles of students have changed from that of clients to that of participants and workers in the community. Hence, there is a shift from teacher-directed approach to student-centred learning. It helps trace out students’ own paths of constructing knowledge collaboratively with teacher’s guidance and monitoring.
• The collaborative knowledge building approach is very important to students not only in the sense that it helps develop better thinking, analytical and problem-solving skills, but it also paves the way for student to develop their life-long learning abilities and attitudes.

• It works in line with the recent curriculum reform advocated by the Education Commission report on life-long learning towards 21st century in Hong Kong, which emphasized on the importance of learning how to learn
A good online collaborative knowledge building platform

In other words, it mediates processing among human mind.
KF and Cognitive Issues

On Learning:
- It helps students to identify different components in thinking processes, structure and organize ideas through “Scaffold Supports” and “Rise-Above”

On Collaborative Knowledge Building
- It helps students to share, compare and contrast and advance their ideas
KF & Human-Computer Interactions

And other features that address the need of collaborative knowledge builders
We hope that KF can help students in developing their:

- Thinking skills
- Meta-cognitive skills in learning
- Life long learning skills
Application of Knowledge Forum® (KF) in the contexts of Hong Kong

Since September 2001, KF has been localized in some of the Hong Kong schools through a research and development project called ‘investigating the formation of knowledge building communities with technology support’.

The project aims at supporting and investigating the development of life-long learning abilities in group collaborative learning contexts with facilitation of technology.
Peer Tutoring Project

Aim:
To extend the use of KF to more schools and provide an opportunity for students to collaborate as a knowledge building community during summer.

Activities:
Except from on-line collaboration, students will be invited to join the peer teaching session and cross-school peer tutoring in order to display their collaborative work and share their learning experience.
Research interests in PTP

Study on how online collaborative knowledge building lead to student’s:

– Cognitive development
– Meta-cognitive development
– Motivational change
Schedule of PTP

- **Milestone 1**
  - Mid to late June (after exam): Introductory session for students on the use of Knowledge Forum. Two workshops will be conducted for students.

- **Grand opening ceremony: 10-7-2002 2:30pm**
  - Rayson Huang Theatre

- **Milestone 2**
  - Summer: Students work within own school/class on selected topics.

- **Milestone 3**
  - From beginning of September: Students will conduct
    1. Peer teaching sessions to their classmates
    2. Cross-school peer tutoring
    3. Achievement tests and survey