

Carvalho, R. (2019). Managing Information Overload: Interface Design Solutions for Prolific Knowledge Forum Communities. Design session at the *2019 Knowledge Building Summer Institute: Knowledge Building Practices and Technology for Global Hubs of Innovation*. June 17-20, Lyon, France.

Managing Information Overload: Interface Design Solutions for Prolific Knowledge Forum Communities.

Renato Carvalho
OISE/University of Toronto
renatoscarvalho@gmail.com

Statement of the Issue

Knowledge Building (KB) aims to promote a culture of innovation in which students work as a community engaged in sustained idea advancement and knowledge creation (Scardamalia, 2002). Such collaborative work is commonly mediated by Knowledge Forum (KF), a software developed for the specific purpose of providing technological support to Knowledge Building (Scardamalia, 2004; Scardamalia & Bereiter, 2006). However, some cases have been reported of KF communities with a degree of engagement so high that the amount of contributions generated by its members becomes overwhelming, making it too difficult for students to keep pace with the growth of the community's body of knowledge (Lax, 2019). This study aims to address this problem through the design of a number of small additions and changes in KF's interface, whose combined effect would significantly increase the students' ability of dealing with large amounts of information.

Goals

Our major goal is to get the KB community engaged in the co-design and advancement of a set of KF tools and features that may contribute for a better support for the management of large amounts of information, offering feedback and ideas for improving the proposed interfaces.

Description of Audience Engagement

This is a design session that aims to engage participants in the co-design and advancement of the Knowledge Forum. After a presentation of the existing designs (15 minutes), participants will be provided with printings and will be divided in small groups for discussion on possible improvements, creation of new designs, etc. (45 minutes). Finally, small groups will report their ideas for a whole group discussion (30 minutes).

References

- Lax, L. (2019). *Curb Your Enthusiasm: Is there such a thing as too much Knowledge Building?* In 2019 Knowledge Building Summer Institute. Retrieved April 19, 2019, from <http://ikit.org/summerinstitute2019/>
- Scardamalia, M. (2002). *Collective cognitive responsibility for the advancement of knowledge*. In B. Smith, & C. Bereiter (Eds.), *Liberal education in a knowledge society* (pp. 67-98). [Berkeley, CA.]: Distributed by Publishers Group West.
- Scardamalia, M. (2004). *CSILE/Knowledge forum®*. Education and technology: An encyclopedia, 183-192. Scardamalia, M., & Bereiter, C. (2006). *Knowledge building: Theory, pedagogy, and technology*. The Cambridge handbook of the learning sciences, 97-115. Retrieved from http://ikit.org/fulltext/2006_KBTheory.pdf