

"WebGuide: Supporting Collaborative Web Inquiry"

Gerry Stahl
Center for LifeLong Learning and Design
Department of Computer Science
University of Colorado

Gerry.Stahl@Colorado.edu
<http://www.cs.colorado.edu/~gerry>

To foster collaborative learning, middle school students must develop collaboration skills, such as how to look at ideas from different people's perspectives and how to negotiate a shared perspective. The WebGuide software is designed to support perspectival viewing and negotiation in a natural way, but also to raise related issues to conscious reflection.

WebGuide supports teams of students conducting research on the web; it lets them share bookmarks, queries, notes and summaries that arise in the research.

The shared information space is viewed through various perspectives so that all students can construct their own personal view of the materials, rearranging them under different categories and generating new summaries or annotations. All information can be modified within a personal perspective.

Students can view the work of other students, copy items to their personal workspace, and propose that items they have created be incorporated in the team's shared perspective. For a proposed item to be accepted in the team perspective, team members must deliberate and agree to accept it.