

Promoting Online Collaboration: Strategies and Risks

*"I think we should have sat down as a group, which we seldom did, and discussed how we were going to make this happen....We didn't take the summit."
—Climber George McLeod, after a failed attempt to climb Mt. Everest*

If you only have time for one resource, read

Designing Web-Based Training (Horton, 2000, Wiley). You'll find out how to combine course elements into effective and interesting learning sequences, discover how to overcome technical hurdles, learn how to offer materials that promote collaboration, and discover how to use Web technologies to create alternatives to traditional courses.

Resources mentioned in presentation

1. *Singular Texts/Plural Authors* (Ede & Lunsford, 1990, Southern Illinois University Press). Ede and Lunsford challenge the assumption that writing is a solitary act. Their analysis of the results of a FIPSE project, highlighted by survey responses from members of seven professional organizations, outlines the problems and benefits of collaborative writing, a process that is growing in the work force.
2. "The Dawn of the E-lance Economy" (Malone & Laubacher, 1988, *Harvard Business Review*, Sept-Oct, 145-152). Drawing on their research at MIT's Initiative on Inventing the Organizations of the 21st Century, the authors postulate a world in which business is not controlled through a stable chain of management in a large, permanent company. Rather, it is carried out autonomously by independent contractors connected through personal computers and electronic networks.
3. "Relationships and Tasks in Scientific Collaboration" (Kraut, Galegher, & Egidio, 1988, *Journal of Human-Computer Interaction*, 3:1, 31-58). What are the requirements on computer- and telecommunications-based tools to aid groups in producing intellectual products? Authors provide guidance to those developing technology to support collaborative work.
4. *Designing Web-based Training* <<http://www.designingwbt.com/>>. The Designing WBT Web site is for trainers, instructional designers, and Web developers who want to create effective Web-based training. This site provides examples, demonstrations, articles, presentations, and material from the book *Designing Web-Based Training*.

Suggested online resources

<http://www.western.tec.wi.us/voice/class/vtutor/collabor.htm>
<http://www.cmu.edu/teaching/technology/collab.html>
<http://www.cvm.tamu.edu/wklemm/collab.htm>
<http://www.publicus.net/oc/>
<http://www.caucus.com/pw-teameffective.html>
<http://ausweb.scu.edu.au/proceedings/agostinho/paper.html>
<http://www.cmu.edu/teaching/howto/Bbseminars/collaboration/pdfs/Bbcollaboration.pdf>
<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/utdc/blackboard/in-design.shtml>
http://www.umuc.edu/cgi-bin/HyperNews1_9_5-readonly/get/dia_2/5/5/1.html
http://ifets.ieee.org/periodical/vol_3_2000/f06.html
<http://www.unc.edu/cit/newchalk/ncv1n11.htm>