

## **Wikieducator Newbie Tutorials**

### **Pilot testing and critical review of the draft tutorials**

Colleagues, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all COL staff who have added their names to help with the review of our WikiEducator Newbie Tutorials. These are first draft resources, and you are bound to find a few typos and opportunities for improvement.

#### **The payback for your effort**

The wiki is a phenomenal technology. However, WikiEducator is not a technology – it is a passionate community committed to learning for development through free content. These Newbie Tutorials will enable thousands of educators around the Commonwealth to acquire the necessary skills to participate as equal contributors rather than consumers of foreign and alien content. Your feedback in helping us improve these resources is a direct contribution to our development agenda, and I'm most appreciative of your help.

There is a payback for your help:

- You will cover all the basic skills you need to use WikiEducator with confidence and I encourage you to work through the short activities.
- You will be able to use WikiEducator for your own work in the field. I use Wikieducator extensively at COL, including the collaborative development of workshop outlines, initiative proposals and to communicate information about COL's eLearning actions and activities. For example, the planning and development for the Commonwealth Computer Navigator's Certificate is being carried out on Wikieducator. Programme Assistants will find WikiEducator useful when planing regional events. I'm confident that you will find innovative uses of the technology for your own work.
- With the launch of these tutorials as free content (including an online eLearning version pre-loaded into a Learning Management System), you will be able to offer training anywhere and any time to your partners in the field. You are free to use these resources and integrate them into your activities. I'm more than happy to discuss ideas and alternatives about how you can do this. Moreover, if you facilitate a workshop like this yourself – there is no cost to your programme budget! Nonetheless, I have a number of ideas concerning a range of inexpensive alternatives to widen access to this training – after all its free content and infinitely scalable!

#### **Time commitments**

- **Total time commitment:** between 4 - 5 notional learning hours over two weeks.
- **Number of tutorials:** There are eleven tutorials plus an optional tutorial on free content.
- **Estimated time per tutorial:** Participants would need about 15 to 20 minutes per tutorial, but I expect this to be far less for most COL colleagues taking the high levels of ICT proficiency in our organisation.
- **Technology requirements:** Computer with Browser and Internet connection
- **ICT skills requirement:** Basic browsing skills. Wiki editing is very easy and accessible.
- **Dates:** 10 Working days commencing 12 February 2007 to 23 February 2007. However, the asynchronous design of the course will allow participants to progress according to their own work schedule. You can complete the tutorials in a single sitting or spread this out to fit your own schedule.

## Suggested outputs

I don't want this to be an onerous task and I have kept the suggested outputs to an absolute minimum. My request for help is:

1. That you complete your User Page on WikiEducator, this is not wasted effort because WikiEducator's consult information on the User pages. Your User page should incorporate the following formatting features:
  - Bold and italics text
  - A numbered or bullet list
  - Headings and sub-headings,
  - An image, and
  - At least one pedagogical template
2. To post contributions to the discussion forums
3. Whenever you see an opportunity for improvement, to do this the wiki way. Make the change on the page concerned – be bold! The wiki ethic is to make small changes (grammar, fixing typos, adding an idea) directly on the page concerned. If you have more substantive questions, that would require discussion you can add these to the relevant discussion page.
4. When working through a tutorial, if anything is unclear, or you're confused about what to do please formulate this into a question. In each tutorial you will find a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) subsection. Your task is to identify the FAQs a student would likely ask. You can enter this directly on the relevant page, or in the discussion forum set up for this purpose.

## Getting started

Instructions for getting started will be posted on WikiEducator on the following page:  
[http://www.wikieducator.org/Wikieducator\\_tutorial/Pilot\\_testing](http://www.wikieducator.org/Wikieducator_tutorial/Pilot_testing)

We will still be upload content and adding the final touches over the weekend, so things may change before go-live on Monday morning.

## Additional Participants

I anticipate that we may have a few guests joining us on this journey, specifically:

- Helena Mill and Brent Simpson from New Zealand. Consultants who assisted COL with the development of these resources;
- Prof Richard Heller, Emeritus Professor, from the Universities of Manchester, UK and Newcastle, Australia. Richard is now retired and has started an OER project using WikiEducator to develop postgraduate OERs in public health;
- Colleagues from the Computer Navigator's Certificate activity.

I will send out a final email with the necessary link on Monday. I look forward to interacting with Colleagues online.

Cheers, Wayne