

Exercise 1

Collaborative History Writing

brief

- Find a pair for yourself.
- Identify one Wikipedia article that is in need of an intervention: *rewriting, expanding or adding multiple points-of-view*.
- We suggest to concentrate on a topic relevant to this course and to avoid ‘people’ and artefacts and other undisputable items
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vannevar_Bush
 - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mp3>
 - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ipod>

more suitable examples

Themes, concepts

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_media
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interaction_design
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physical_computing
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interactive_cinema

Try to find something which You are interested, already know something, or just want to find out about.

Approach

- Familiarize yourself with the development of the article, from “Recent changes” and “Discussion”. Try to identify and document the possible point(s)-of-view of the previous writers of the text, and figure out, how the text can be improved.
- Write contributions to the article over the given period of time. (ie. not in one day). Complement the article with references and sources.
- Document with screen shots, the evolution of the article. Follow the process.
- **IMPORTANT:**
If the article is very bad quality or passive, and during the time of the intervention, no-one else contributes or discusses the text with you, please, try to activate the article by inviting other people to contribute, people from Media Lab, previous contributors to article, friends, colleagues, etc.

Deliverable

- Make a PDF or HTML document which contains screenshots and written description of the process and activities.
- To find a way to present your contributions to others, explore the tools MediaWiki offers (Recent changes, discussion, etc.) to document the process and result.
- Length max. five A4 papers.

Timetable

- 12.10.2006: Brief given
- 31.10.2006: Participants announce their article
 - Post your topic to the Media Lab intranet forum as a reply to the thread on the forum, url of the article + team names.
 - A list of the selected articles will also turn up as a blog post in the course blog.
- 7.11.2006: Deliver the article
 - send the PDF or link to HTML document as in an e-mail to ville.tikkanen@uiah.fi before 16:00
- 9.11.2006: Ending the 1st exercise
 - debriefing
 - looking through the articles, general discussion about exercise, wiki, history writing, etc.