

# Why media Wiki is not (yet) the ideal Wiki-engine to use for educational purposes



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# What is this BOF about?

‘Needs of educators and learners’  
regarding the Media Wiki ,tool‘

AND

strategy about how to use the tool  
(educational settings / scripts).

# Possible questions..

What is necessary to improve usability and to avoid oversimplification?

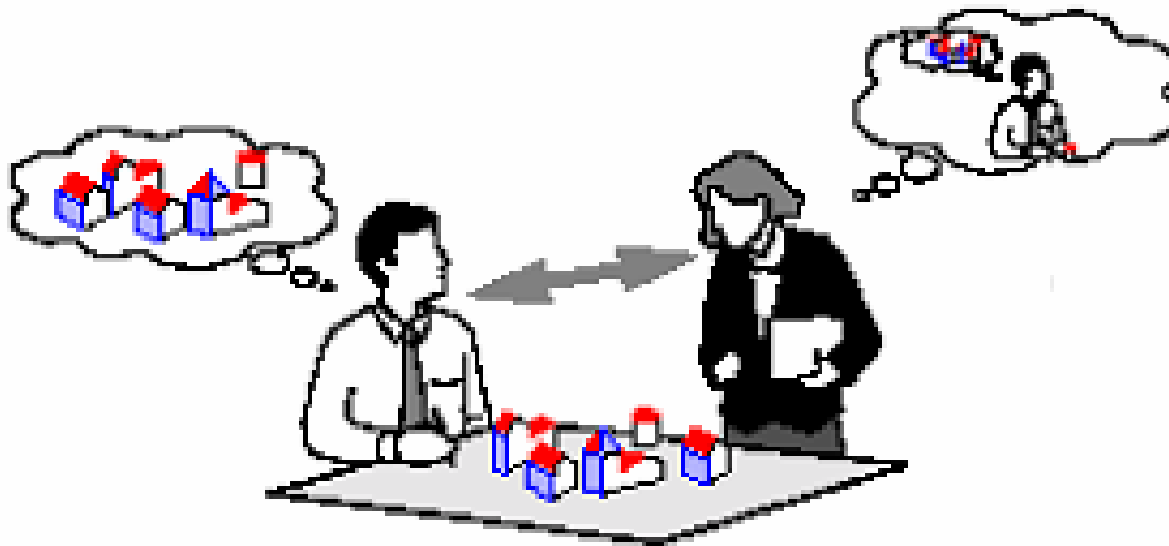
What are the needs of learners and educators in order improve learning?

# Classification of Education

- Formal education
- Non formal education

# Learning can be understood as: Knowledge construction

- A (socio-) constructive approach



# Learning can be understood as: collaboration

Collaboration



Conflict resolution  
Argumentation  
Negotiation  
Mutual regulation  
Explanation  
Scripting

Shared understanding



Learning

Preventiv

Structure

reactive

Regulate

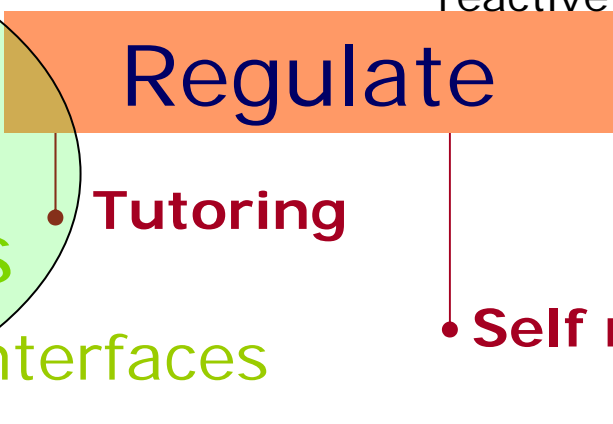
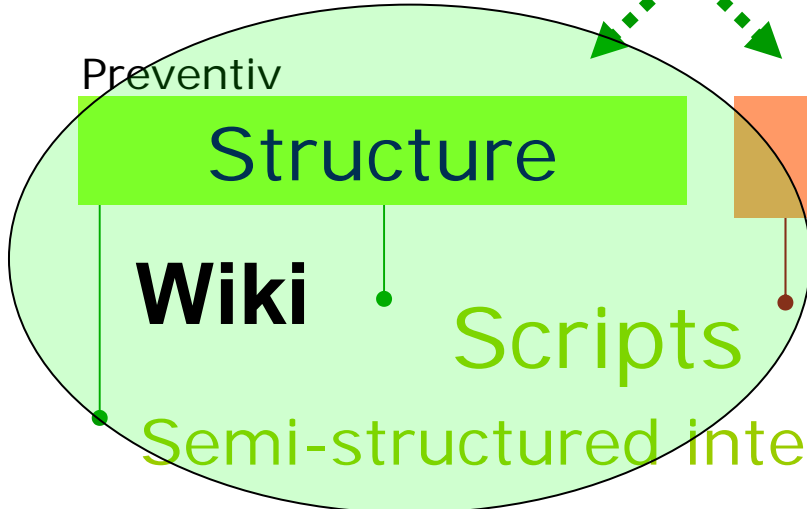
Wiki

Scripts

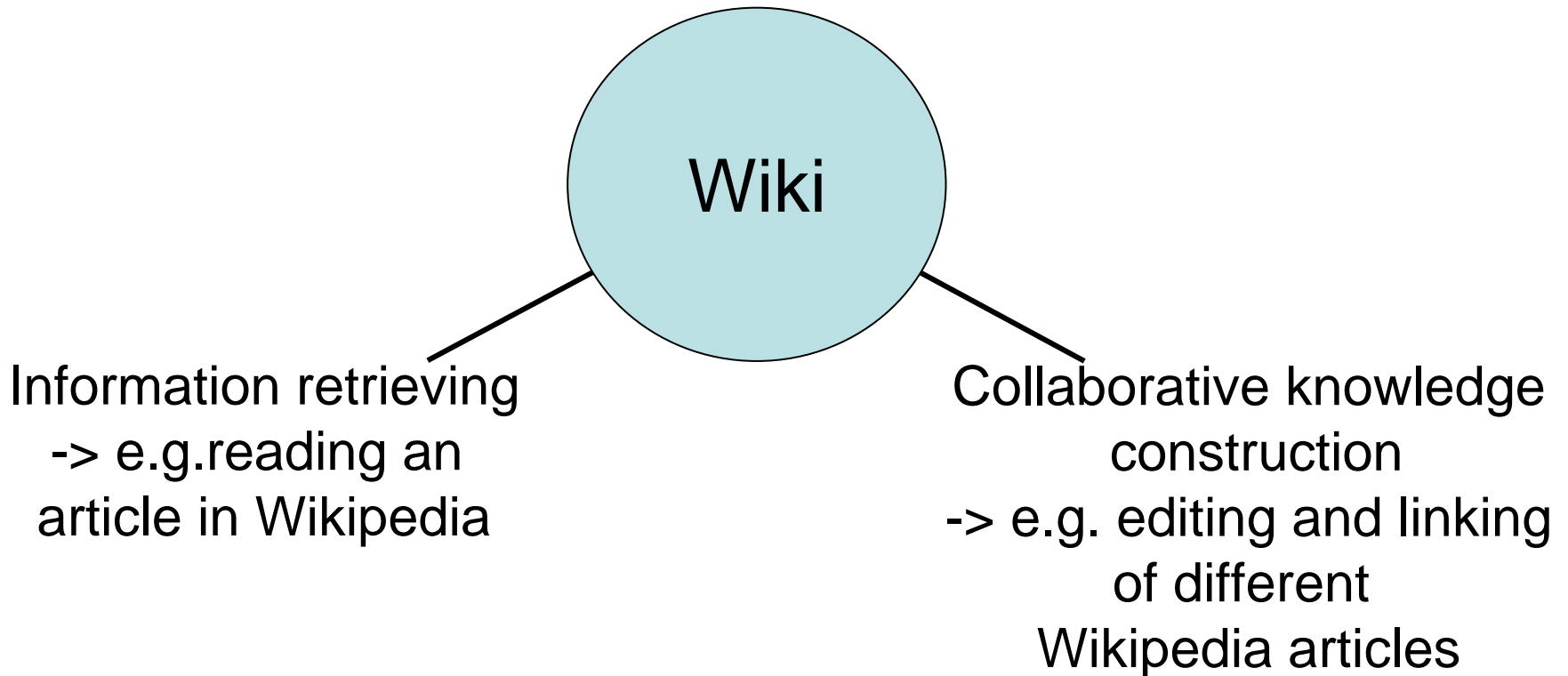
Tutoring

Semi-structured interfaces

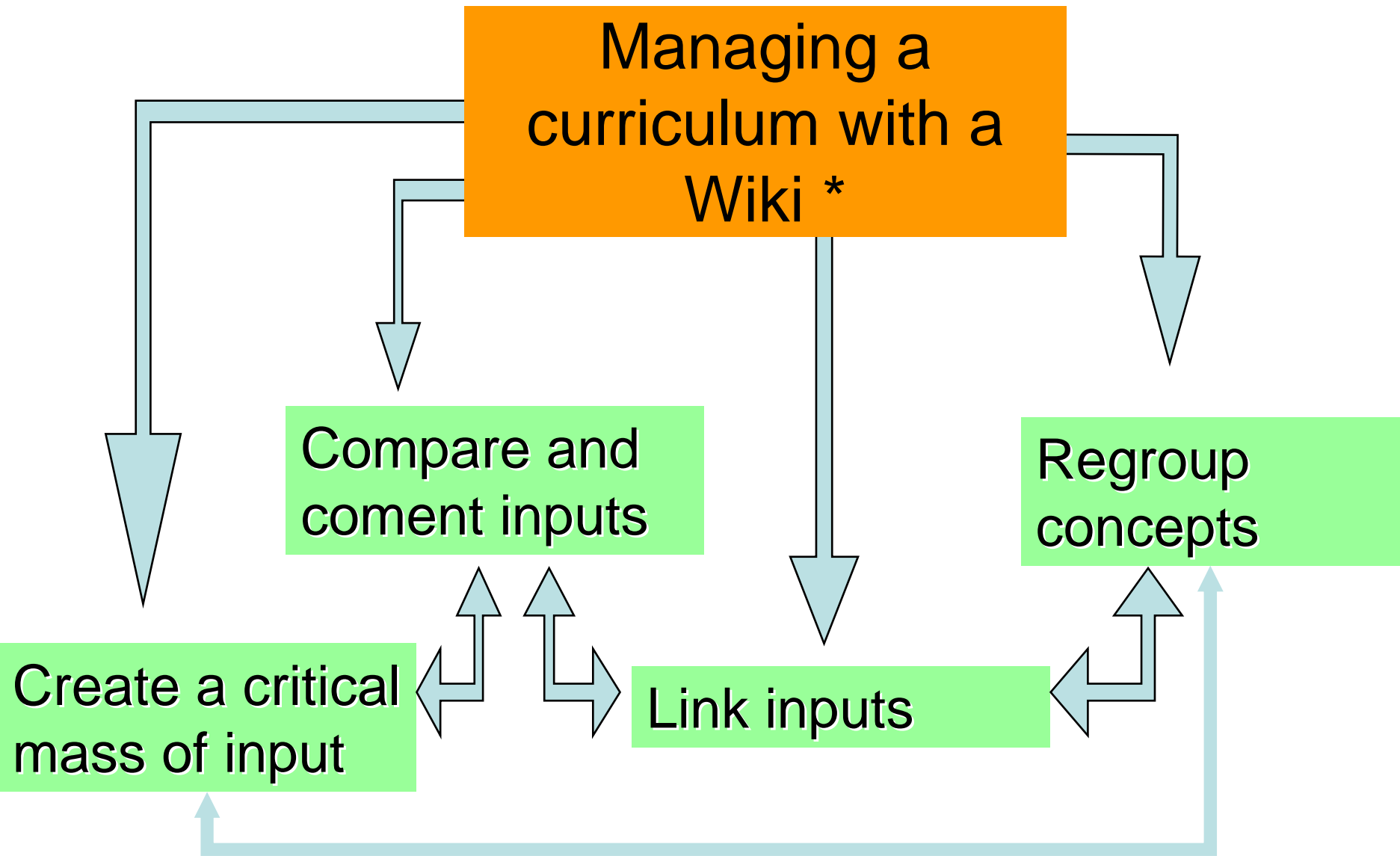
Self regulation



# Role of a Wiki for learning







\* A Wiki being used for collaborative knowledge construction

# Possible discussion subjects /groups

1. Pedagogical thoughts about a tool to sustain knowledge construction
2. Needs for non-formal education
3. Needs for formal education
4. Technical features of a Wiki for enhancing learning
5. Needs of educators for using Wiki
6. Needs of learners for using Wiki
7. Which are the occurrences of a Wiki to be used by persons to keep the 'technical cognitive load' deep in order to permit a high level learning performance?
8. What is necessary to improve usability and to avoid oversimplification?
9. ...

# Goal of this BOF

- Formulating Ideas to improve Media Wiki, in order to make it better for educational purposes:
- [http://wikimania2007.wikimedia.org/wiki/Free\\_Culture\\_Space/Bofs#1.\\_Why\\_is\\_Media\\_Wiki\\_not\\_.28yet.29\\_the\\_ideal\\_Wiki-engine\\_for\\_.28formal.29\\_educational\\_settings.3F](http://wikimania2007.wikimedia.org/wiki/Free_Culture_Space/Bofs#1._Why_is_Media_Wiki_not_.28yet.29_the_ideal_Wiki-engine_for_.28formal.29_educational_settings.3F)

# Possible improvements for the Media Wiki engine

- navigation capabilities (e.g. easier inclusion of page links in the left-hand side navigation bar);
- Better support for discovery and repair of broken links;
- Support for internal image re-sizing. The following MediaWiki extensions would be beneficial for the assessment of wiki contributions: Configuration of different “skins” for a different (set of) pages - this will allow students to use personalized “look & feel” for their coursework submissions;
- Page export to different formats such as PDF or HTML for the purpose of archiving (“retiring”) entire wiki site; or to ASCII text format for the purpose of feeding it into text matching tools.
- Presented by: [m.cubric@herts.ac.uk](mailto:m.cubric@herts.ac.uk) at Wikisym 07

# An example of a Wiki engine sustaining these features

- <http://www.edwiki.selbstlernarchitekturen.info/wiki.php> site of the founder
- Example of a ed.wiki in use:  
<http://www.greenpit.ch/ndswiki3/index.php>

# Features of ed.wiki

Ergonomics of these features is crucial!

- Navigation / Editing
- Linking of internal pages
- File uploading
- Version- control
- Discussion / News pages
- Access control
- Tracking of activities