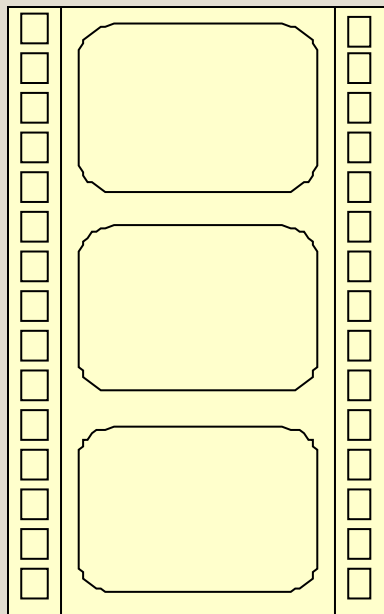


A person is shown from the side, holding a tablet computer. The background is a warm, orange-toned gradient with a faint, glowing globe. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# USING WIKIS TO EXTEND AND TRANSFORM PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Dr. Ellen Maddin, Northern Kentucky University

# What is a wiki?



# Professional Learning Communities

Professional learning communities are formed by educators who “continuously seek and share learning and then act on what they learn. The goal of their actions is to enhance their effectiveness as professionals so that students benefit.”

Hord, 1997

# Attributes of a Successful PLC

- ❖ Supportive and Shared Leadership
- ❖ Collective Creativity
- ❖ Shared Values and Vision
- ❖ Supportive Conditions
- ❖ Shared Personal Practice

# The Challenge



***When, where and how will teams come together as a unit to do the learning, decision-making, problem-solving and creative work that characterize a professional learning community?***

# Barriers

- ❖ Time to meet
- ❖ Conflicting schedules
- ❖ Physical proximity
- ❖ Structures for communication and feedback
- ❖ Isolation
- ❖ Access to resources

# Why Wikis Work-Collective Creativity

## What I Know Is

Collectively, we have an abundance of intellectual property. We store it on our home computers, on flash drives, and sometimes—even on network drives. But we all have different ideas about how to organize—and where to *put*—our “good stuff.” A wiki is the perfect place to **organize and keep the materials and resources we value.**

# Why Wikis Work—Shared Practice

Not only can we post our good stuff, we can also talk about it. The **Add a comment** field allows for discussion on each page. **Share a lesson** file with a colleague; add a comment to update an activity or provide implementation tips. As colleagues replicate the lesson in their own classrooms, they can **provide feedback** or share variations on the lesson. Team members can add new resources to the page to make the lesson even better.



# Why Wikis Work—Shared Practice

Technology for K-12 Transformation / Videos - Windows Internet Explorer

http://nkutech4k12transformation.pbworks.com/Videos

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Technology for K-12 Transformation / Videos

Home RSS Print Page Tools

## Technology for K-12 Transformation

maddine1@nku.edu  
account sign out

VIEW EDIT

### Videos

last edited by Ellen Maddin 23 hrs ago [Page history](#)

**Apple Classroom of Tomorrow-Today**  
<http://ali.apple.com/acot2/voices/>  
This link takes you to a collection of videos organized by design principle.

**Edutopia-Why Integrate Technology into the Curriculum?**  
<http://www.edutopia.org/tech-integration>  
This video provides a compelling case for using technology better than we currently use it. In many schools, technology is being taught as its own topic. Instead, we should be using it as vehicle to promote deeper understanding in academic content areas through projects, investigations, collaborations, and creative works.

**Comments (1)**

**Justin Hines** said  
at 2:37 pm on Sep 28, 2009  
[Delete](#)

Edutopia looks like an interesting video to watch. Technology should be a part of every subject in school not only because it can be very helpful, but because it is important to keep updated with advancements in technology.

**Add a comment**

**Create a page** FrontPage  
**Upload files** Pages & Files  
**Upgrade!** Settings  
Help

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[Send a link](#)  
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**SideBar**

[Using Wikis to Extend and Transform Professional Learning Communities](#)  
eTech Ohio State Technology Conference  
Columbus Convention Center  
Columbus, Ohio  
February 2, 2010, 8:00 a.m.  
[Edit the sidebar](#)

**Navigator**

**Resources** [back](#)

Internet 100%

# Why Wikis Work—Learning Together

None of us are as smart as all of us. And some of us have a talent for being in the forefront of instructional technology. By creating a **Professional Learning** folder, we can start collecting How-to videos, step-by step instructions, Quick Start guides, etc., to share what we've discovered with the team. We can also use the area to post PD materials in advance of the in-service day and use **Add a comment** to continue the conversation afterwards.

# Why Wikis Work—Collaboration

A wiki is a great place to collaborate because—in addition to being able to share documents—you can also **track the revision** history. Everyone on the team can see what everyone else has contributed. Comments also help to illuminate the *whys* and *wherefores* of each revision.

# Why Wikis Work—Collaboration

Technology for K-12 Transformation / All Files - Windows Internet Explorer

http://nkutech4k12transformation.pbworks.com/browse/#view=ViewAllFiles

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PB Technology for K-12 Transformation / All Files

Used 18 MB of 2 GB

**All Files** [Send a link](#)

| <input type="checkbox"/> | Name  | Folder               | Last changed                          | Revs |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------------------------|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3Dimensional World Project with Rubric.doc 33 KB<br><a href="#">Rename</a>                | EDG 602 Project Sa   | 11/03/2009 7:41 pm<br>by Ellen Maddin | 1    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | BarthCourse Project Template-elementary.ppt 3.04 MB<br><a href="#">Rename</a>             | EDG 602 Project Sa   | 11/03/2009 7:40 pm<br>by Ellen Maddin | 1    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Barth Geometry Plan Kidspiration.kid 1.77 MB<br><a href="#">Rename</a>                    | EDG 602 Project Sa   | 11/03/2009 7:40 pm<br>by Ellen Maddin | 1    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | bowmansciencewiki.JPG 32 KB<br><a href="#">Rename</a>                                     |                      | 01/29/2010 4:00 pm<br>by Ellen Maddin | 1    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Byers-Project Overview.kid 1.77 MB<br><a href="#">Rename</a>                              | EDG 602 Course Pr    | 11/03/2009 8:02 pm<br>by Ellen Maddin | 1    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | ByersPersuasiveEssayKWL.doc 27 KB<br><a href="#">Rename</a>                               | EDG 602 Course Pr    | 11/03/2009 8:03 pm<br>by Ellen Maddin | 1    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | cowan- build a bug rubric.xls 20 KB<br><a href="#">Rename</a>                             | EDG 602 Project Sa   | 11/03/2009 7:51 pm<br>by Ellen Maddin | 1    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | cowan- course project.pptx 162 KB<br><a href="#">Rename</a>                               | EDG 602 Project Sa   | 11/03/2009 7:51 pm<br>by Ellen Maddin | 1    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | cowan- project_overview.kid 1.76 MB<br><a href="#">Rename</a>                             | EDG 602 Project Sa   | 11/03/2009 7:51 pm<br>by Ellen Maddin | 1    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Creating an Educational Workspace in PBWorks.pdf 272 KB<br><a href="#">Rename</a>         | Wiki Professional Le | 01/29/2010 4:53 pm<br>by Ellen Maddin | 1    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Criteria to Evaluate the Credibility of WWW Resources.doc 46 KB<br><a href="#">Rename</a> | EDG 602 Course Pr    | 11/03/2009 8:03 pm<br>by Ellen Maddin | 1    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ellen.JPG 10 KB<br><a href="#">Rename</a>   |                      | 09/24/2009 3:32 pm<br>by Ellen Maddin | 1    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | ENVIRONMENTAL TEMPS.kid ...<br><a href="#">Rename</a>                                     | EDG 602 ...          | 11/03/2009 7:51 ...                   | 1    |

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# Why Wikis Work--Collaboration

Technology for K-12 Transformation / - Windows Internet Explorer

http://nkutech4k12transformation.pbworks.com/FindPage?RevisionsFor=2010%20Ohio%20Educational%20Technology%20Conference

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PB Technology for K-12 Transformation /

Home »

## Revisions of 2010 Ohio Educational Technology Conference (11):

Compare

|                                  |                                  |  |                        |                    |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|------------------------|--------------------|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>            | <a href="#">January 31, 2010 at 5:32:39 pm</a> by <a href="#">Ellen Maddin</a> | <a href="#">Delete</a> | (Current Revision) |
| <input type="radio"/>            | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <a href="#">January 31, 2010 at 4:30:47 pm</a> by <a href="#">Ellen Maddin</a> | <a href="#">Delete</a> |                    |
| <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            | <a href="#">January 29, 2010 at 5:54:05 pm</a> by <a href="#">Ellen Maddin</a> | <a href="#">Delete</a> |                    |
| <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            | <a href="#">January 28, 2010 at 5:44:21 pm</a> by <a href="#">Ellen Maddin</a> | <a href="#">Delete</a> |                    |
| <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            | <a href="#">January 28, 2010 at 5:44:00 pm</a> by <a href="#">Ellen Maddin</a> | <a href="#">Delete</a> |                    |
| <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            | <a href="#">January 28, 2010 at 5:43:09 pm</a> by <a href="#">Ellen Maddin</a> | <a href="#">Delete</a> |                    |
| <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            | <a href="#">January 28, 2010 at 5:42:40 pm</a> by <a href="#">Ellen Maddin</a> | <a href="#">Delete</a> |                    |
| <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            | <a href="#">January 28, 2010 at 5:37:40 pm</a> by <a href="#">Ellen Maddin</a> | <a href="#">Delete</a> |                    |
| <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            | <a href="#">January 28, 2010 at 5:20:12 pm</a> by <a href="#">Ellen Maddin</a> | <a href="#">Delete</a> |                    |
| <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            | <a href="#">January 28, 2010 at 5:11:50 pm</a> by <a href="#">Ellen Maddin</a> | <a href="#">Delete</a> |                    |
| <input type="radio"/>            | <input type="radio"/>            | <a href="#">January 28, 2010 at 4:32:05 pm</a> by <a href="#">Ellen Maddin</a> | <a href="#">Delete</a> |                    |

Compare

**PBWORKS** Learn about PBworks collaboration / Help Terms of use / Privacy policy About this workspace Contact the owner / RSS feed / This workspace is public

maddine1@nku.edu  
account sign out

- Create a page FrontPage
- Upload files Pages & Files
- Upgrade! Settings Help

Search Pages

**SideBar**

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February 2, 2010, 8:00 a.m.  
[Edit the sidebar](#)

**Navigator**

- Starred Pages
- EDG 602 Course Project-Byers
- EDG 602 Project Sample-Barth
- EDG 602 Project Sample-Cowan
- Resources
- Wiki Professional Learning Communities

edit folders

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# Additional Reasons to Wiki

- ❖ Decrease disruptions of instructional time
- ❖ Make meetings more efficient
- ❖ Share/collaborate on curriculum maps
- ❖ Save trees



# Wiki Examples

The screenshot shows a Google Sites workspace for a wiki named "bowmanscience". The page is titled "FrontPage" and was last edited by Jason Bowman 1 mo ago. The main content area features a cartoon illustration of a scientist in a white lab coat holding a test tube with green bubbles. Below the illustration, there are three sections of text:

- Welcome to Mr. Bowman's Wiki!**  
This Wiki is designed to help you with your everyday instruction in Science. Click on the underlined links to view.
- New Website!**  
<http://sites.google.com/site/mrbowmanscience/home>  
Check out my new website for homework, and other cool stuff concerning Science!
- Extra Credit!!**  
Visit [www.bowmanscience.wordpress.com](http://www.bowmanscience.wordpress.com) for an extra credit opportunity.

The right sidebar contains several utility sections:

- Account information for "maddme1@nku.edu" with links for "account" and "sign out".
- Buttons for "Create a page" and "View files".
- Links for "FrontPage", "Pages & Files", and "Help".
- A "Search Pages" input field.
- A message: "To edit this page, request access to the workspace." with a blue icon.
- A "Navigator" section with expandable menus for "Starred Pages" and "Unfiled Items".
- An "edit folders" button.
- A "SideBar" section with expandable menus.
- Links to "Check out Mr. Bowman's blog at: [www.bowmanscience.wordpress.com](http://www.bowmanscience.wordpress.com)" and "New Website Under Construction! <http://sites.google.com/site/mrbowmanscience/home>".

# Wiki Planning

## PLC Wiki Planning Map

### Front Page

This is the area where you introduce the wiki team members and the purpose of your wiki. Think of it as the exterior of your work area. Decorate your “front door” with a graphic or two. Give the place some color and personality—some *curb appeal*. Make it a place that invites visitors by hinting at the quality resources that can be found inside. (Consider including links to the inside pages within your introductory text.)



### Folders

Think of your folders as the rooms inside your work area. List by category, the types of resources you would like to share with your colleagues. Examples might include Teaching Resources, Grade-Level Team Newsletters, Lesson Plans, Project Ideas, Announcements, Team Meeting Minutes, Curriculum Maps, RTI Tools, Student Artifacts/Models, Templates, and Calendars. Note: If your wiki will be *public*, do not post student names, photos or identifying data.

### Pages

You will place pages inside of the folders you create. Once you have established a folder, you can continue adding pages as needed. Imagine the pages in your wiki as the furniture and objects d’ art that fill your rooms. Some pages are functional (i.e., file cabinets to hold your shared work) and others allow you to be creative and innovative.

| Folders  | Pages |
|----------|-------|
| Name:    |       |
|          |       |
| Purpose: |       |
|          |       |
|          |       |



# Getting Started

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# PBWORKS

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PBworks lets you create a secure online workspace in about 60 seconds. **Encourage classroom participation** with interactive wiki pages that students can view and edit from any computer.

Share class resources and completed student work with parents. You can even **collaborate with fellow educators** on courses and curriculum, and manage the work of running your school or district.

[Sign up now »](#)

### Set up in 60 Seconds

- Get set up instantly. There's nothing to install, so you don't need help from IT.
- [Learn more »](#)

### Create and Edit Wiki Pages

- Quickly create new wiki pages and share information with students, parents or other educators. Each page has a revision history so you never lose content and you always know who edited the page.
- [Learn More »](#)

### Public or Private



“Awesome. Awesome. Awesome.

I would recommend PBWorks to anyone wanting to start a class wiki... and well as project wiki... my kids love it!!

-Glen L., Teacher

# PBWORKS

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School Districts  
College Campuses  
Library Systems

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1000 users

40GB storage

Full customization

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\$799 per year

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#### Classroom

K-12 Classrooms  
College Classrooms  
Libraries

1 workspace

100 users

40GB storage

Full customization

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- Classroom Accounts
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- Zip backups

\$99 per year

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#### Basic

Hobbyists & Clubs  
Personal Use  
Productivity

1 workspace

100 users

2GB storage

Limited customization

[» learn more «](#)

- Classroom accounts
- Basic email support
- No backups

FREE

[SELECT >](#)

Upgrade any time

Navigation bar with search engines (Google, Bing), utility tools (Share, Translate, AutoFill), and browser tabs (Northern Kentucky Univer..., PB PBworks: Sign up).

# PBWORKS

## Sign up

### Choose your address

http://  .pbworks.com

### Agree to non-commercial use

Need the [Business Edition](#)?

I agree that this workspace is for non-commercial use only

### Your account

You are logged in as [maddine1@nku.edu](#)  
[logout](#)

Next >

# Email Verification

Email verification message from PBworks - Windows Internet Explorer

Reply Reply to all Forward Print Attachments X Help

From: support@pbworks.com on behalf of PBworks Registration Sent: Wed 9/23/2009 3:51 PM  
To: Ellen Maddin  
Cc:  
Subject: Email verification message from PBworks  
Attachments:

Hi,

We received your request to add 'maddine1@nku.edu' to your PBworks account. To confirm, please click this link:  
<https://my.pbworks.com/verify.php?email=maddine1%40nku.edu&id=997de8bcdfe1b0b3c96d1889949ffbf1b25e5d80&key=24e2e5d4>

Thanks,

Your PBworks Team

Click on the link to confirm your request. You'll go directly to your wiki workspace. Time to get started!

Unknown Zone (Mixed) | Protected Mode: Off 100%

# Basic Design and Editing

## Basic Instructions for Designing and Editing a PBwiki

### Create a Folder

1. Click on [Pages & Files](#) (in the upper right corner of your screen).
2. Click on the [New](#) button. Select “Create a folder.”
3. Type a name for the folder.
4. To add another folder, click the [add](#) button next to the Folder category.
5. To return to the **Front Page**, click on your wiki title (example: *Kindergarten Learning Community*) at the top of the page.



### Create a Page

1. Click on **Create a page** (in the upper right corner of your screen).
2. Type a name for your page – but **don't click the Create Page button just yet**. Instead, click [more options](#) (just below where you named the page). This will give you the opportunity to select a template and/or place the new page inside a folder.
3. Click on the Create Page button. Your work area is now the new page you created. (To return to the **Front Page**, click on your wiki title at the top of the page.)

### Edit a Page

1. Click on the **Edit** tab.
2. You should now be looking at a work area similar to a word processing screen. You can type text in this area and use formatting tools to get the look you want. For example, you can create a [heading](#) by changing the text format from **Normal** to **Heading 1**. You can change [the font size](#), style and color. You can also center text or justify it on the right. To separate or define areas on the screen, you can insert a table or a horizontal line. (Move [your pointer](#) over a tool to see what it does.) You can also use bulleted or numbered lists to organize text.
3. Click on the **Save** button when you have finished editing the page.

# Other Wiki Workspaces

- Zoho Wiki: <http://wiki.zoho.com>
- Wikispaces:  
<http://www.wikispaces.com/site/for/teachers>
- Wetpaint



# References

- Hord, S.M. (1997). Professional Learning Communities: What are They and Why are They Important? *SEDL Issues About Change*, 6 (1). Retrieved from <http://www.sedl.org/change/issues/issues61.html>
- Nielsen, L. (2009). Eight Ways to Use School Wikis. *Tech & Learning*, 30 (1).