UC Merced
Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society

Title
WikiSilo: A Self-organizing, Crowd Sourcing System for Interdisciplinary Science

Permalink
https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4t114934

Journal

ISSN
1069-7977

Authors
Leibovitz, David Pierre
West, Robert L.
Belanger, Mike

Publication Date
2014

Peer reviewed
WikiSilo: A Self-organizing, Crowd Sourcing System for Interdisciplinary Science

David Pierre Leibovitz  
Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Robert L. West  
Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Mike Belanger  
Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Abstract: WikiSilo is a tool for theorizing across interdisciplinary fields such as Cognitive Science using a specific vocabulary and structure. It is designed to show if a particular cognitive theory is complete and coherent at multiple levels of discourse, and commensurable with and relevant to a wider domain of cognition. WikiSilo is also a minimalist theory and methodology about effectively doing science, and is therefore a form of epistemizing. WikiSilo theory provides for a disciplined exploration of explanatory space via an axiomatic hierarchy of epistemizing and ontologizing postulates. The WikiSilo tool, via a software version control system, supports the long term goal of working toward coherent and unified theories. More generally, WikiSilo facilitates self-organization leading to academic silos with well-defined conceptual frameworks that are vertically related as compared to poorly related ad-hoc academic fiefdoms.