

CIDC2006 Conference Paper Abstract details

Title:

Exploring the concepts of the appropriation and usability of community technology – from the Activity Theory perspective

Abstract:

Advances in information and communication technology (ICT) have transformed the “industrial society” into the knowledge-based “information society” at the turn of the new millennium. We are now in the “information age”. Information and knowledge have become the defining characteristics; but how it is acquired, transmitted, shared, and applied, will determine access to an improved quality of life. ICT has emerged as a leading enabler to this end. Indeed, that adequate access to, and the appropriate use of technology by all who need it is a passport to citizenry in the knowledge society has become common understanding within the intelligentsia. What is not so clear though is: how the social appropriation of technology is understood, what the appropriate application of technology implies, as well as the actual meaning of technology “usability” in social contexts. This article explores the concepts of “effective appropriation” and “usability” of community technologies, from an activity theory perspective.

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