

**Open Access Software for Virtual  
Collaborations on Campus & Beyond:  
A Case Study of Food & Nutrition Business**

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## *USDA Higher Education Grant:*

- Interdisciplinary course: “Food and Nutrition Business Information and Communication.”
- Virtual Collaboratory: a virtual collaborative learning laboratory
- Multidisciplinary student teams collaborate with industry partners.
- Focus on teamwork, information literacy & communication
- Librarians as partners with teaching faculty

## Project Team

- Food Science Dept. & Center for Advanced Food Technology (Geetha Ghai, Henryk Daun, Mukund Karwe, Karen Schaich)
- Nutritional Sciences Dept. (Adria Sherman)
- Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics & Food Policy Institute (Ramu Govindasamy )
- Rutgers University Libraries (Martin Kesselman, Andrew Ruggiero, Ryan Womack)
- School of Communication, Information, and Library Studies (Dan O'Connor)
- Cooperative Education, Food Innovation and Research Extension (FIRE)

# Collaboration Challenges

- Need for common understanding. Each discipline has unique perspectives & vocabulary
- Need in the virtual environment to work together, schedule their work, and stay on track.
- Need to generate ideas, articulate problems
- Need a central repository of information and files.
- Be able to assess, analyze, and plan for the needs of the industry partner.

## *Collaboration Challenges cont'd*

- Need to communicate and disseminate information to a varied audience
- Need a platform that is intuitive & easy to use
- Need software that is readily available, open source and customizable, or free.



# Virtual Collaboratory Services

- Collaborative writing.
- Virtual meetings – class/team forums, chat, calendar.
- Virtual Course Pack (textbook)
- Information Resources – portals such as AgNIC, data sets, library databases.
- Virtual conferencing
- Additional software Tools

# SAKAI

- What is Sakai?
  - Open-source, customizable, web-based learning and collaboration environment.
  - Organized into user-generated ‘Sites’ – collections of information and communications intended for a specific set of users.
  - An Iron Chef (**Hiroyuki Sakai**)

## Why Choose Sakai?

- Fully supported and actively developed at Rutgers University
- Extensive (and growing) toolset and customizable interface
- Excellent user and access management
- Did we mention it's free?



1. User's collection of subscribed 'sites' are listed as tabs on the top of the screen



My Workspace | OIT Tech Forum | Podcasting at Rutgers | Sakai Pilot | **VirtualCollaboratory**



Home ▾  
Announcements  
Chat Room  
Discussion  
Email Archive  
Resources  
Wiki  
Site Info  
Basecamp  
Agnic News[rss]  
Discussion and Private Messages  
Help


users present:

Andrew Ruggiero

#### WORKSITE INFORMATION ?


Options

This is the Project Site for the Virtual Collaboratory for Food, Nutrition & Business Information at Rutgers University.



2. Customizable Navigation Bar/Toolset lets site admin(s) select what resources and communication tools are available for team members and students

3. Site admins can display data from within this site, or merge across shared sites and display it on the front page.



#### RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS ?

Options

##### Meeting Today!

There's a meeting Wed. Sept.27th in the e-classroom of Foran Hall at 1pm.

(Andrew Ruggiero - Sep 27, 2006 3:03 pm)

##### Sakai Training for Class Resources Management

On Thursday, August 31st there will be a instructional seminar on the use of Sakai for use with classroom resource management. The session will be held in the computer lab in Records Hall, College Ave Campus @ 9:00am.

Gale Stein of OIRT will be the instructor.

(Andrew Ruggiero - Aug 30, 2006 10:53 am)

##### Apple iLife demo @ DqJss Library 8/03/06

An Apple representative is scheduled to provide demonstrations of the iLife application suite on the morning of August 3rd in the instructional alcove of Douglass Library. The iLife suite of apps: iMovie, iPhoto, iDVD, Garageband and iWeb are used to create multimedia content such as podcasts and videocasts.

The demonstration might be of interest to team members who anticipate creating such content.

# Directing the flow

- Information professionals help to organize site content, but also the flow of communication

Available streams of communication:

- \* **email listserv**
- \* **chat room**
- \* **forum discussions**
- \* **private messages**
- \* **wiki**
- \* **rss**



**Sakai  
Site**

## Plays nice with others

- The 'Web Content' tool lets you display external web media from within the site.
- Syndicated news feeds (rss).
- Maintains an integrated learning or project environment, when Sakai's features don't meet all your needs.

# Looking Ahead

- Stabilizing features, polishing the screen designs, and clarifying text.
- Graduating from pilot phase – into full production quality Spring 2007
- Overall Assessment at Rutgers in 2008



# Tools for Common Understanding

- Team Building e.g. simulations (wilderness survival) communication style assessment – doer, thinker, influencer, connector ([outsmartyourbrain.com](http://outsmartyourbrain.com))
- Project Management Tools, e.g. [BasecampHQ.com](http://BasecampHQ.com)
- Social Network Analysis – e.g. Iknow (U. Il) who knows who, who knows what, who knows who knows what.
- Vocabulary Tools such as Agricola, Agrovoc, [food.oregonstate.edu](http://food.oregonstate.edu), Wand Food & Beverage Taxonomy ([wandinc.com](http://wandinc.com))



## eNormicom Extranet

Logged in as Larry Appleton ([Log-out](#)) | [Help](#)

**Dashboard**

To-Dos

Milestones

People

Templates

Settings

### 1 Late Milestones

7 days late: [Awaiting payment so we can release the document](#) [Smithco | Intranet experience review | Matt Linderman]

Due in the next 14 days

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
TODAY	Oct 27 <a href="#">Review Personal/Basic</a>	28	29 <a href="#">Kick off meeting</a>	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

### Latest activity

#### 5 Martin — Backoffice screens

MESSAGE	TODAY	<a href="#">New Order Process: Revised "Find Item"...</a>	by Jason Lindy
COMMENT	22 Oct	<a href="#">New Order Process: Initial Screens</a>	by Sam Linderman
MESSAGE	21 Oct	<a href="#">Search/Browser Questions</a>	by Matt Ruby
FILE	21 Oct	<a href="#">Order Screen Flow</a>	by Sam Linderman
TO-DO	20 Oct	<a href="#">New CUSTOMER SERVICE order Screens</a>	by Lisa Price

#### Tilted — Snowglobes

COMMENT	TODAY	<a href="#">Re: IP allocation</a>	posted by David H.
COMMENT	Yesterday	<a href="#">Re: Cluster Network Performance Analysis</a>	posted by James K.
COMMENT	24 Oct	<a href="#">Re: Cluster Network Performance Analysis</a>	posted by James K.
COMMENT	24 Oct	<a href="#">Re: Cluster Network Performance Analysis</a>	posted by James K.
COMMENT	24 Oct	<a href="#">Re: IP allocation</a>	posted by James K.

#### Smithco — Intranet experience review

MILESTONE	Yesterday	<a href="#">Get sign-off from Marcus</a>	assigned to Fischer J.
TO-DO	Yesterday	<a href="#">Add new categories inline on the ...</a>	assigned to Anyone



### 4 Your projects

[Create a new project](#)

eNormicom

[Office relocation](#)  
[Site redesign](#)

Martin

[Backoffice screens](#)

Smithco

[Intranet experience review](#)

Tilted

[Snowglobes](#)

TravelCenter

[Web Site Redesign](#)

*Projects on hold*

eNormicom

[Bring portfolio up to date](#)

[Archived projects](#)

BASECAMP

Inquiring Knowledge Networks on the Web: I-KNOW - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites Media Print Mail News RSS Feeds

Address <http://iknow.spscomm.uiuc.edu/ocmc/iknow.cgi> Go Links

**OCMC I-KNOW**  
Welcome, guest

Analysis  
[Get Contact Information](#) (?)  
[Search Networks for a Person](#) (?)  
[Search Networks for a Topic](#) (?)  
[Visualize Network\(s\)](#) (?)  
[Calculate Network Indices](#) (?)  
[Make Groups](#) (?)

Edit Personal Information  
[Contact Information](#) (?)  
[Acquaintances](#) (?)  
[Research Interests](#) (?)  
[Country or Region of Birth](#) (?)  
[Professional Associations](#) (?)  
[University Affiliation](#) (?)  
[Open Ended Response](#) (?)  
[Key take-away ideas](#) (?)  
[Change Your Password](#) (?)

Log Out

Questions? Comments? Contact the administrator at at [iknow@spscomm.uiuc.edu](mailto:iknow@spscomm.uiuc.edu).

**I-KNOW**  
INQUIRING KNOWLEDGE  
NETWORKS ON THE WEB

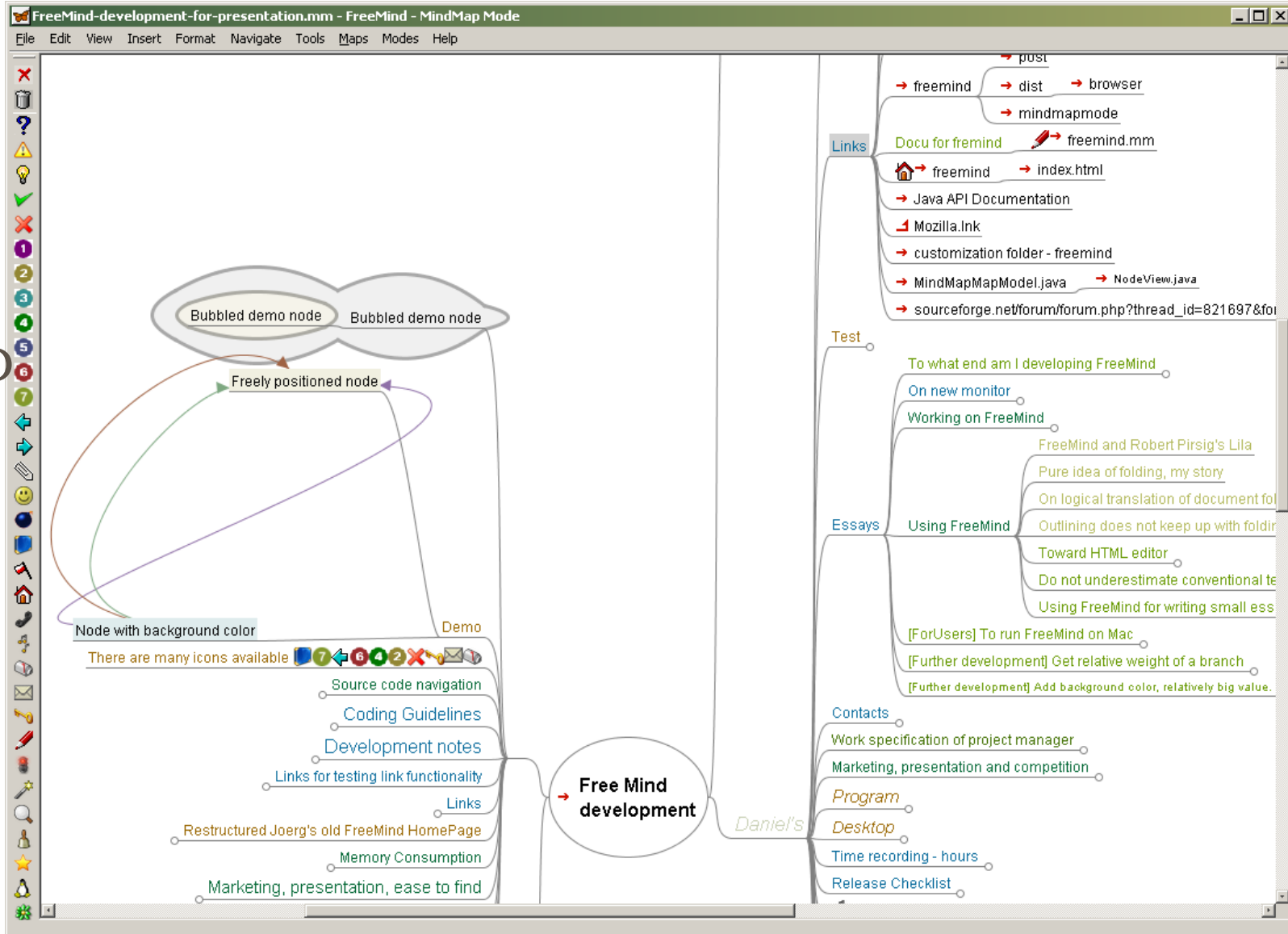
Copyright ©1997-2002, The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois,  
Noshir Contractor, Barbara O'Keefe, and Patricia Jones

Inquiring Knowledge Networks on the Web: I-KNOW  
I-Know was developed at the University of Illinois by Dan Zink, Mike Chan,  
Peter Taylor, Dana Serb, Ryan Kanno, Mike Armstrong, Shyam Kurup,  
Emily Wang and Sean Mason.

javascript:(Do('visualize','search\_topic')); Internet

# Information Gathering

- Idea Brainstorming and Processing Tools –  
Freemind ([freemind.sourceforge.net](http://freemind.sourceforge.net)),  
Backpack, ([backpackhq.com](http://backpackhq.com))
- Business and Marketing Plans, e.g.  
[agmarketing.extension.psu.edu](http://agmarketing.extension.psu.edu),  
[agviability.cornell.edu](http://agviability.cornell.edu)
- Survey Tools, e.g. [SurveyMonkey.com](http://SurveyMonkey.com)





# BACKPACK

## Ideas for Version 2

A collection of ideas, interface prototypes, and more for version 2 of Widgettopia.

### List

- Custom color schemes
- Export to XML and comma separated formats
- Open API for developers
- Flickr integration
- Del.icio.us integration
- Backpack integration

[Add item](#) | [Reorder](#)

- Allow people to upload their own logo ☰
- Optimize the dashboard ☰
- Increase included disk space to 500 MB ☰
- Tell a friend functionality ☰
- RSS feeds for new user accounts ☰

### Files



[widget2\\_0b2.zip](#)  
ZIP, 0K ☰



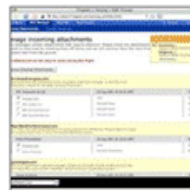
[widget2\\_0b3.zip](#)  
ZIP, 0K ☰

[Add file](#)

### Images



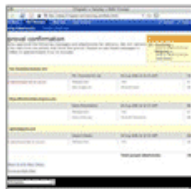
View message



Manage attachments



Quota alerts



Confirm items



Defensive design

[Add image](#)



# Communication & Dissemination

- Evaluation Tools
- Presentation Software
- Conferencing Software, e.g. Open Conference System, [Marratech.com](http://Marratech.com)

# Libraries & Virtual Communities

- Take a lead role in the development of supportive technologies, e.g. U of MN Blogging
- Presence and participation in online courses – “my librarian” Become a blended librarian
- Develop partnerships with teaching faculty, in particular with digital initiatives.
- Look for opportunities to bring faculty together from different disciplines – Synergy!!