**WIKIOGRAPHY**

Throughout the semester, I have learned a lot about various topics such as learning theories, connectivism, and technology. Before starting this course, I did not know what a “course wiki” was. Thus, I had no prior experience in working on one. After reading the course outline and looking at the wiki page, I realized that it was simply a course website that was created by students for students. Prior to this, my understanding of a wiki was limited because the only concept I had of a wiki was Wikipedia, which I thought, was created, and managed by a professional company.

My interaction with the class wiki first started in early September. I visited the website to explore it and figure out what it was all about. I remember browsing and reading about the different theorists, theories, and definitions that were familiar to me. I also browsed through information that was new to me. From exploring the wiki site, I thought that it was an amazing idea, because it was created for students, and students from other sections of the class were able to add or edit what was already there. As I was exploring, I had chosen to edit the placement of a definition because it was not in alphabetical order. When I clicked on the edit page, I was overwhelmed because I was unfamiliar with the editing tools and the way the words were organized on the page. For example, the use of brackets, apostrophes, and equal signs baffled me, so I just cut and pasted the word into its right place.

My first contribution to the course wiki was when I created a biography page for myself. This was the most frustrating part of my wiki contributions because it was my first major contribution. I had the most difficulty trying to figure out how to create a new page and link it onto the “authors” page. In addition, I was still confused as to when it would be appropriate to use the equal sign and brackets. Once I figured out how to create a new page, I simply went into an author’s page that already existed, went into the edit section, and copied what they had into my author page. This helped me with understanding the format. Doing this also assisted me with linking my page back to the author’s page. I found this technique to be very helpful with my other wiki contributions.

In early October, I started to think about what theories or theorists I could add into the wiki. Unfortunately, any idea I thought of was already there. Thus, I decided to look through the definitions section and incorporate any key terms from theorists that were not there. Later in the month, I knew that I was required to make larger contributions so I scanned through the theorists section again and also used my old psychology textbooks in order to help me find a theory or theorist that was not already in the wiki. The first theorist I found was Sigmund Freud. I was surprised that no one had previously started a wiki page on him, as he was one of the key contributors to understanding child development. I included his biography, theory of psychoanalysis, structure of the mind, structure of personality, defense mechanisms, psychosocial development, and references. Once I was done adding and editing all the key information, I tried to attach a picture of Freud and a picture of the id, ego, and superego iceberg analogy. However, after trying several times, I was unable to grasp how to embed a picture into a wiki page. Using Freud and my psychology textbook as a starting point, I found other theories and theorists that were not included in the course wiki.

My next major contribution to the course wiki was the theorist Erik Erikson. I created a page that included his biography, appraisals of his work, and his eight stages of psychosocial development. Once I was doing adding and editing his wiki page, I went into the main theorist page to add his name to the section. There I realized that someone had already created a page for Erikson. I was really frustrated at this point because I spent so much time and put so much effort in creating a wiki page for him. However, it was my mistake because instead of going through the whole list of theorists, I simply just searched the term “Eric Erikson” on the wiki’s main page. I realized after that in the results no page was created because I had spelt his name wrong. I decided to look at the page already created to see if I could add in any information that was not already there. I was able to add more details to his stages of development and included a section of appraisals to his work. I felt a bit relieved to know that all my hard work did not go to waste.

In mid-November, I decided to add a course wiki page on Urie Bronfenbrenner’s ecological systems theory. This was a different contribution in the sense that most of my other contributions relate to psychology, whereas this theory is more social in aspect. I included a brief overview of the theory and described each of the ecological systems: microsystem, mesosystem, exosystem, and macrosystem. I am hoping to add a biography of Urie Bronfenbrenner and include a diagram of the ecological systems theory to the page. In addition, I plan to add more details and examples to each of the ecological systems.

Another theory I contributed to was the transformative learning theory. During one of our classes, this theory was brought up and briefly discussed. I have never come across this theory so I decided to research it and add it to the wiki. When I checked the wiki site somebody had already started working on this theory however, they did not include the definition. I added a detailed description of what the transformative theory entailed and included the reference. Unfortunately, when I went back to the theory’s page, all that I added was deleted. I decided not to add what I had earlier because I felt as if I was “taking over” someone else’s work.

During the end of November, I decided to contribute definitions to the course wiki. In my psychology textbook, I went through all the sections of theorists that were already included in the course wiki. This led me to find some definitions that were not included such as object permanence and symbolic thinking.

Overall, all of my contributions for the course wiki were psychology based, more specifically related to child development, which was discussed in this course. My contributions started with Sigmund Freud and branched off from his theories to other theories, theorists, and definitions that used Freud as a starting point. My experience with the course wiki was similar to a roller coaster, as it had its ups and downs. I was frustrated at first with the formatting and with finding something to add. In addition, a challenge I had was finding time to research information and add it to the wiki. However, I was pleased when I added and edited a section and saw the final page. I found this to be a valuable experience because I was introduced to a form of technology that I was not familiar with. In addition, I was fond of the idea that other course sections will be able to contribute to the course wiki. In the future, I hope to continue to contribute to the wiki and make use of the great amount of information that is already there. In addition, I plan to learn how to attach an image to a wiki page. All in all, I think that the course wiki was beneficial to this course because I was able to learn a great deal from it.