

# TCSR<sup>TM</sup>

Texas Consortium on School Research

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## *Fostering Ongoing Communication: Creating an Online TCSR Community of Practice*



*Kris Kurtenbach, Founder,  
Michelle Bishop, Vice President of Interactive Services,*

# Agenda

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- Understanding Communities (Discussion)
- Collaborative's work with TCSR
- TCSR as a Community of Practice
- Designing a Community of Practice
  - Discussion activity
- Community Participation
  - Reflective exercise
- Vision

# Discussion #1

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- Thinking about all the communities you have ever been involved in (personal and professional), please answer the following questions:
  - 1) What factors made them successful?
  - 2) What made them less than successful?

# Our Work with TCSR

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What are we trying to achieve?

- Grow and cultivate the Community of Practice beyond face-to-face meetings.

Why?

- To provide more opportunities to share information and collaborate with like-minded individuals
- Lessen the sense of isolation

# Our Work with TCSR

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## Project Activities

- Interviews
- Edvance team strategy session
- Input from today

## Next Steps

- Recommended CoP design with implementation plans (recommendations to range from structure to technology to governance)

# Our Work with TCSR

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## Consortium member interviews

What you said:

- Nine 30- to 45-minute interviews, three lines of questions
- Eagerness in the group to share thoughts and hear from others
- Clear desire for the Consortium to exist and to increase engagement in it
- People want to learn what topics others are researching and insights learned
- TCSR is unique as a resource

# Our Work with TCSR

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## What is a CoP?

What you said:

- Peer groups interested in action
- Like-minded people
- Engagement not only from TCSR down to districts but also across districts
- Actively seeking input on methods
- Building on the existing network to move more quickly to sharing and addressing problems

# TCSR as a CoP

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What you said:

- Increases frequency of interaction
- Keeps conversations going and evolving between face-to-face meetings
- Involves more people
- Offers different types of interaction, some less formal
- Enables additional opportunities to connect research to practice

# TCSR as a CoP

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What makes a CoP successful?

- Effective and thoughtful design, based on audience needs
- Excellent facilitation and moderation
- Clear purpose
- Core group of active members

# TCSR as a CoP

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Why do we think TCSR can succeed?

- An established CoP (F2F)
- Defined objectives
- Shared conceptual framework
- Precedence for inviting inside and outside perspectives
- Multiple levels of participation
- Strong desire by community members
- Edvance as a respected organization

# Designing a CoP

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- Vision/Value
  - Value to participants, districts, education field
- Design/Structure
  - Small/large, open/closed, public/private
- Methods
  - Means of communication
- Management
  - Governance, resources, knowledge management
- Metrics
  - How many users, how many posts, events listed, etc.

# Designing a CoP

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- Methods (or Tools)

- Webinars
- Teleconferences
- Online community

- Personal profiles
- Organizational profiles
- Chat
- Discussion

- Content syndication
- Bookmarking
- Blogs
- Document storage
- Surveys


# Designing a CoP

## Ning in Education


Using Ning for Educational Social Networks

Main
My Page
Members
Forum
Blogs
Groups
Leaderboards
Ning Help


### Groups




**Middle School**  
183 members




**College Instructors**  
141 members



**Professional Development**  
121 members



**Elementary**  
73 members



**Intercultural Awareness**  
68 members

[View All](#)

### Welcome

Welcome to the community for those using [Ning](#) to power their educational social network. Also be sure to check out [Classroom 2.0](#) for general discussions of Web 2.0 in the classroom.




Please introduce yourself in the "[Introductions](#)" forum post. And to see a list of Ning networks being used in education (or to add yourself!), please visit [Social Networks in Education](#).

**Ning offers free Ning Mini networks for educators. [Click here for more details!](#)**


### Welcome to Ning in Education

**Sign Up**  
or **Sign In**


You can also sign up with:


### Forum




**What are you looking for from Ning in Education?** 76 Replies  
People are joining this NING, however there is a very low participation level after people join. Why did you join this NING? Would you like to see more activity on this NING? What (if anything...  
Started by Dr. Ronald G. Shapiro in [Introductions](#). [Last reply](#) by Daisy Grisolia 1 day ago.



**How to coup with the students who do not want to syudy in the class and create disturbance**  
can any one suggest remedy for a disturbing child in the class ?  
Started by MUhammad Husnain Bhatti in [Help Needed](#) Feb 1.







**Hello, hello, who's out there...???? Re-Introducing ourselves. :-)**  
7 Replies  
Please (re)-introduce yourselves - we just got a great response from the email prodding people to remind us that this Ning network even existed (I am among those who forgot) - so who's out there? Hav...  
Started by Laura Gibbs in [Introductions](#). [Last reply](#) by Laura Gibbs Jan 30.







**Should I open it or should I not?**  
Hello there, Well, now that it seems this group is going for a rebirth, I would like to ask something. It is about my site, Heptagrama. In 2005, when I started it, I had the

### Blog Posts




**Great Article: Cyber Bullying and School Videos**  
Posted by [Hal Fletcher](#) on January 28, 2011 at 12:04pm  
   0



**What do we know about effective teaching?**  
Posted by [Dan Quinn](#) on January 13, 2011 at 6:51pm  
   0


### Badge

I'm a member of:






**Ning in Education**

A community of educators using Ning to build social networks.



[Get Badge](#)

### Top Members

- 1  [A-C](#)
- 2  [Hal Fletcher](#)
- 3  [Marcla Figueroa](#)

# Designing a CoP

The screenshot shows a web interface for a workspace titled "Texas Consortium for School Research Home". At the top, the user is logged in as "bishop@collaborativecommunications.com" and is part of the "Collaborative Communications Group". The interface includes a navigation bar with "Workspaces", "My Dashboard", "Web Meetings", and "Favorites". Below this is a sub-navigation bar with "Home", "Wiki", "Files & Discussions", "Tasks", "Milestones", "Calendar", "People", and "Settings".

The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled "Recent Activity", lists documents created by Michelle Bishop:

- Last Week:** "SummaryAudienceInterviewResults.pdf" created Feb 1.
- 3 Weeks Ago:** "TCSR\_COP\_Design\_Working Draft\_V2.pdf" created Jan 17.
- "1-11-11Agenda\_Final.pdf" created Jan 17.
- "SummaryAudienceInterviewResults-1.docx" created Jan 17.

The right column, titled "Texas Consortium for School Research Team", shows a row of team member avatars and an "Add Team Members" button. Below this is a "Recent Discussions" section which currently displays "No Discussions yet in this Workspace." and a "New Discussion" button.

At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with links to "Central Desktop Blog", "User Forum", "System & Network Status", "Partner Portal", "Training & Consulting", and "Contact Us". Copyright information for 2011 is also present.

# Designing a CoP

February 8, 2011

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Inside School Research

Your Guide to the World of K-12 Education Research

Reporter Sarah D. Sparks spent the last five years writing about federal and state education regulations. Now covering education research, she can most often be found with a double-shot mocha in one hand and the latest academic journal in the other. Join her in a discussion of the politics, personalities, and p-values in education studies, and help bring research out of the lab and into the classroom.



**Sarah D. Sparks**

February 08, 2011

### School Improvement Case Study Drops District Feedback

The Institute of Education Sciences, the Education Department's research agency, expects this spring to release its first in-depth report on the schools implementing the turnaround option under the School Improvement Fund, but participating schools should no longer expect "real-time" feedback on their strategies.

Federal SIF grants, reinvented as part of the fiscal stimulus package, require schools to use one of four detailed methods for turn around persistently lagging academic performance. Because the program is being implemented on such a wide scale, it provides a critical opportunity to study how various school reform strategies operate in

7  


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**RECENT COMMENTS**

**John thompson** : "The analysis suggested that schools improve [read more](#)

**Jim Kohlmoos** : Lynch is right on. the Innovation crowd can learn [read more](#)

**Ruby Whit** : Is there any worry that this funding may yet again [read more](#)

**Joshua basara** : Hello, My name is Josh Basara and I work at Cornell [read more](#)

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# Designing a CoP

The screenshot shows a Delicious bookmarks page for Michelle Bishop. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Bookmarks', 'People', and 'Tags'. Below this is the user's profile 'Michelle Bishop's Bookmarks' with links for 'Bookmarks', 'Network', 'Tags', 'Subscriptions', and 'Inbox'. A search bar for 'collaborativeIS' is present. The main content area lists three bookmarked items:

- 03 FEB 11 Do Startup Companies Need Community Managers?** (353 bookmarks) with tags: manager, community, staffing, capacity.
- The failure rate of new online communities | Online Communities | Build an Online Community** (4 bookmarks) with tags: online, community, blog.
- Lifelong Kindergarten :: MIT Media Lab** (42 bookmarks) with tags: mit, learning, education, creativity, kindergarten, youth, programming.

At the bottom, there are links for 'RSS feed for these Bookmarks', 'All Rights Reserved', and 'Private RSS feed'. A footer bar contains links for 'mobile', 'tools', 'blog', 'forums', 'support', 'terms of service', 'privacy policy', 'copyright policy', and 'about our ads'.

# Discussion #2

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Find a partner to discuss the following:

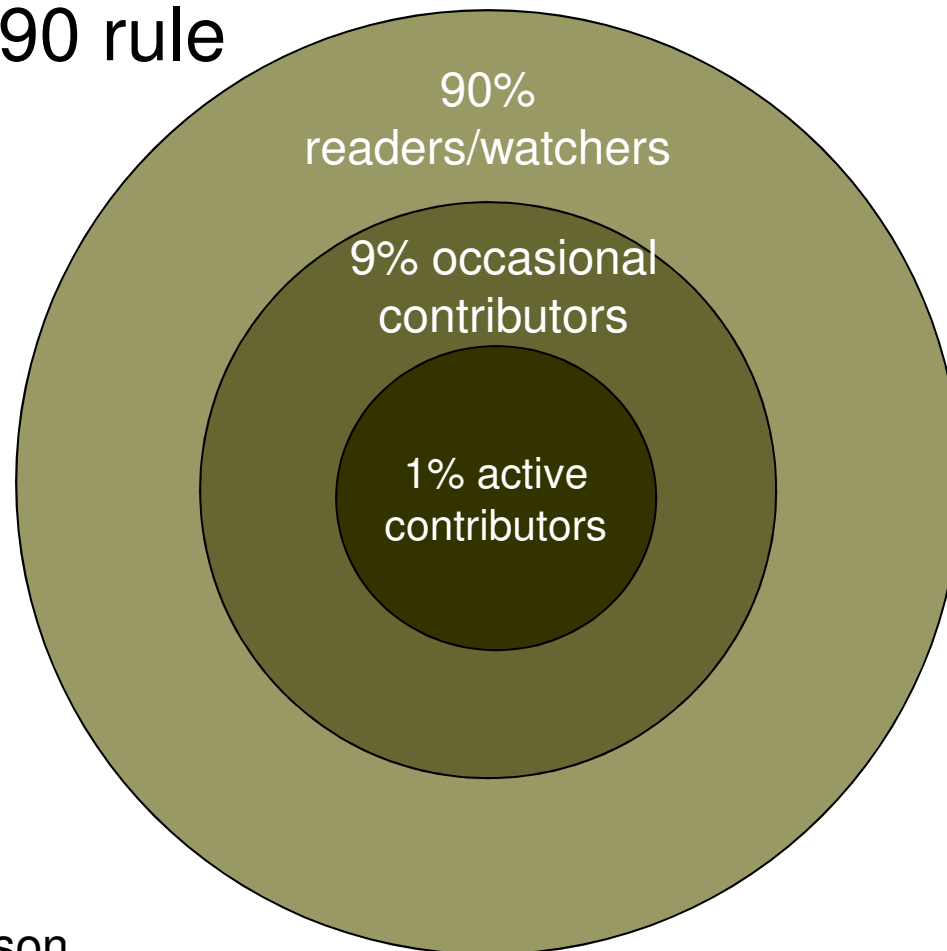
Thinking about everything you do on the Internet on a daily basis, what tools would you like to see as part of the TCSR online community?

Please be specific, such as: “I would like to receive an email that Joe from Austin posted a question on \_\_\_\_.” Or, “I would like to see a list of what everyone is currently working on.”

# Community Participation

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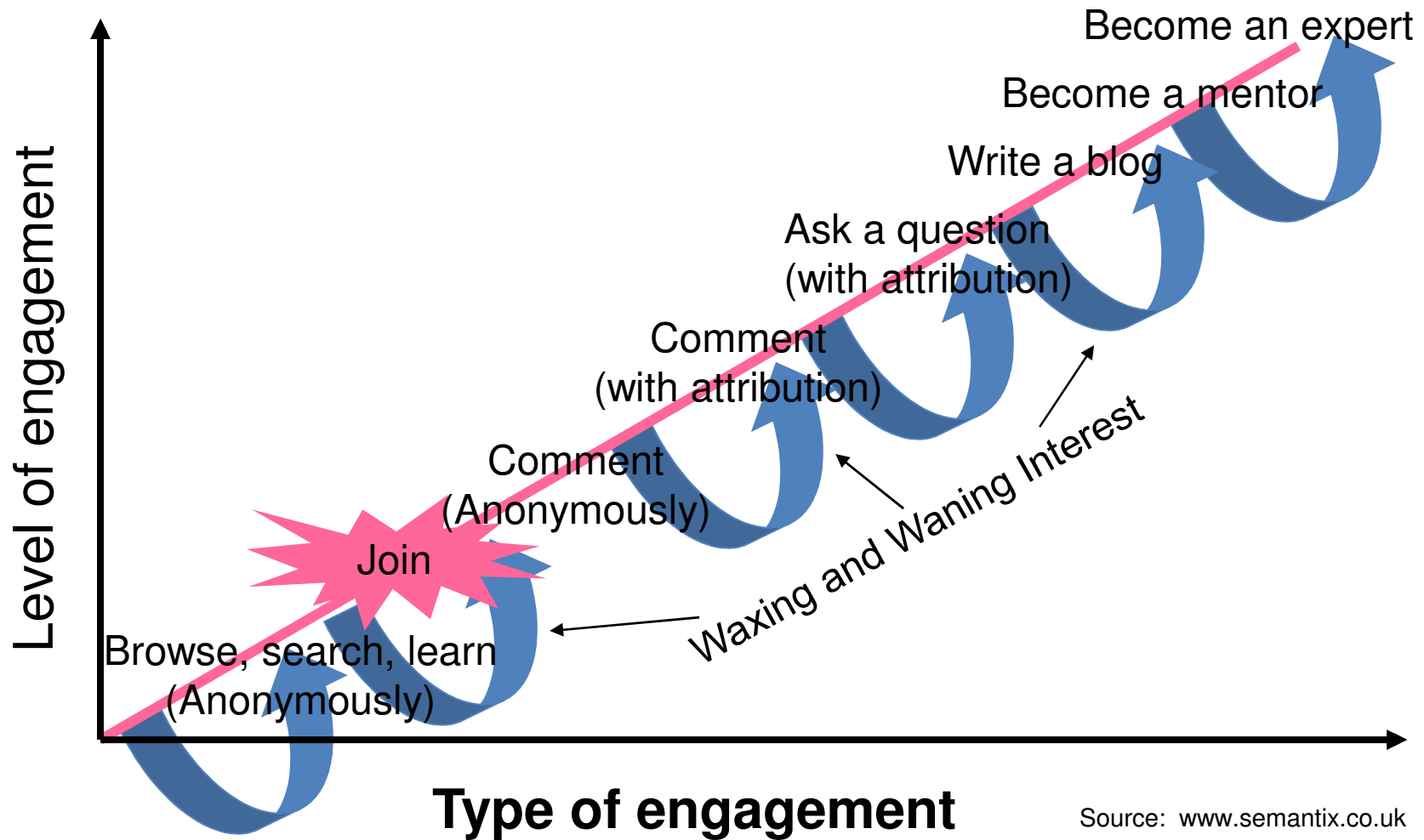
## The 1-9-90 rule



Ref: Jacob Nielsen

[http://www.useit.com/alertbox/participation\\_inequality.html](http://www.useit.com/alertbox/participation_inequality.html)

# Community Participation



Source: [www.semantix.co.uk](http://www.semantix.co.uk)

# Reflective Exercise

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Take a moment to reflect on the different types of engagement and the different levels of participation. Where do you see yourself with respect to a TCSR CoP?

What level of activity do you realistically see yourself choosing?  
What would make you increase this level of participation?

In answering please be specific. For example: “I see myself participating in discussions and potentially being very active but only on specific topic areas.”

# Vision

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Imagine it is 2012, approximately one year from the launch of the TCSR online Community of Practice. What has changed for TCSR members?

# Vision

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- Members engage with one another more regularly through face to face and online activities including online collaboration in subgroups.
- Districts feel comfortable sharing draft research designs and soliciting feedback from one another online.
- Individuals post questions to the TCSR online community regularly as a part of their day to day practice.
- Discussion results are archived and available as part of a growing knowledge base.

# Vision

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- Peer to peer networking is supported by external expert involvement and input.
- Topics specific subgroups collaborate online.
- TCSR has a thriving, sustainable Community of Practice.
- Texas becomes a leader for research consortium.

# Contact Us

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Kris Kurtenbach, Partner

[kurtenbach@collaborativecommunications.com](mailto:kurtenbach@collaborativecommunications.com)

Michelle Bishop, VP, Interactive Services

[bishop@collaborativecommunications.com](mailto:bishop@collaborativecommunications.com)