The Bulletin Board as a Tool for Curriculum Development

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The National Science Resources Center developed a Web-based bulletin board for teachers who were field testing four new curriculum units in the Science and Technology Concepts for Middle Schools (STC/MS) series. The bulletin board was set up as a method of quickly disseminating information to the field-test teachers and also as a communication tool to facilitate discussion among the teachers and curriculum developers.

This poster-presentation examines whether the bulletin board was successful as a tool for curriculum development. It focuses on two main areas. It examines the efforts by the facilitator to accommodate the variation in technological backgrounds and abilities of the group and to maintain the bulletin board’s effectiveness throughout the lifetime of the project. Secondly, this paper will explore patterns of use of the bulletin board and the content of messages posted in a curriculum development environment.