Information Architecture and Web-Based Instruction

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This poster session presents the application of principles of information architecture to Web-based instruction. Information architecture is the structuring of data to meet the informational and management requirements of an organization or group of people. The discipline of information architecture is informed by principles of information theory and communication theory, information design, and the findings of cognitive psychologists on perception and learning.

In this presentation, I examine relevant literature on information architecture and web site creation, consider the application of the principles of information architecture to Web-based instruction, and discuss ongoing research to evaluate the efficacy of such an application. The following topics are addressed:

- Theoretical background: communication theory, information design, cognitive psychology, hypertext theory, distance learning theory, and the social construction of knowledge
- Using information architecture to construct effective web sites
- Using web-based information architecture to assist students in their own construction of knowledge.