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A SNS-based Platform for Sharing Teaching Plan in School Education

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The main topic addressed in this paper is to provide an SNS (Social Networking Service) platform with support functions for active re-use and sharing of teaching plans and materials as shared properties among the school teachers' community.

One of the hottest topics in the field of school teaching in Japan is usage of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) for teaching materials, through improvement of the convenience and application of computing devices. Nowadays, there are a lot of reports new age classrooms with ICT. For example, a digital blackboard enables teachers to copy-and-paste, print and move the materials interactively, as an advanced substitute for the traditional blackboard or papernotes. However, it is not enough for most teachers to approach essential aspects of primary and secondary education by using ICT with prepared teaching content in classrooms which influences the growth of students. We have accordingly paid attention to a teaching plan in which the teachers should design the teaching content for the classroom in advance. We then propose a new ICT solution so that teachers can improve on the conventional design of teaching plans, and emphasis size rediscovery of the value.

In fact, it is very difficult for teachers at primary and secondary education levels to take the time to research and develop their own teaching materials. It is also a fact that they face some difficulties in creating and utilizing their teaching plans. Because In recent years, it is a fact that the time which a teacher can spend making teaching materials is being reduced, as well as the time during which teachers can exchange information. These causes are due to many factors, including busy teaching schedules. According to the research regarding teaching plans, even though the result may vary depending on the teacher's personality and position in school, most people would agree that a teacher requires a long time to make materials.

We propose a support function to actively re-use and share teaching plans, as shared

properties among school teachers. To assist teacher's development in this way, it's important to not just let each teaching plan how to teach on their own; it would be important as well to provide teacher with a place where they can plan better ways to teach together in the presence of more than one teacher, and teachers with a place where they can exchange information about how their student are doing. In recent years, social media had an impact on use the Web, which integrates or replaces e-mail and blogs. Especially, SNS is an online service platform that focuses on building and reflecting on social networks and social relations among people. It enables users to send and receive some types of messages with a user-friendly interface. To use SNS, the first thing to do is to rely on the Persona and assume potential teachers who are likely to use this SNS. Personas are fictional characters created to represent the different user types within a targeted demographic, attitude and/or behavior set that might use a site, brand or product in a similar way.

Our goal is to develop a platform for accumulating and sharing teaching materials for school teachers on the Web, beyond the boundaries of schools and subjects. We first assume typical user images for the platform, with some scenarios of the personas. We then propose an SNS platform with some functions to actively design, operate, and share teaching plans among the teaching community.

From the above view point, we have designed a user-interface that enables users to access easily by using general web browser, without particular plug-ins. We conducted a case study with the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of the system. So, we requested 6 active school teachers to design teaching plans with/without the system. The results of the case study showed that the system would reduce design times in comparison with general word-processing software.