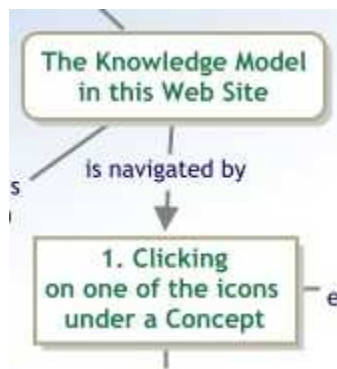


## CMAP Activity

### GETTING ORIENTED TO CMAP:

While CMAP shares some common attributes with other flowcharting programs like Inspiration and MS Visio, it is conceptually a different type of tool. It has features far beyond those found in most flowcharting programs, and also is designed for a slightly different purpose. CMAP is a knowledge modeling program, meaning that it is not intended to be used simply for the purpose of throwing out concepts related to a specific theme. It is instead intended to be used to define the explicit relations between relevant constructs in a given knowledge domain. A very nice example of the functionality and intended purpose of CMAP can be viewed on the main CMAP page: <http://cmap.ihmc.us/>. Notice the following in particular:

1. Each concept is clearly linked to another concept through a clear propositional statement. In other words, if you read the content in one concept, followed by the proposition that links that concept to another concept, and finally the second concept, you read a full sentence. Check out below:



In this portion of the CMAP you can see that the full sentence, connecting the two concepts through the proposition, is; “The Knowledge Model in this Web Site is navigated by clicking on one of the icons under a Concept.” **Note: For all CMAP activities in 7210, you will be expected to create your contributions to CMAP so that the propositional link between two concepts results in a complete, logical, and conceptually accurate statement.**

- Resources, discussion boards, and links to new CMAP files can be added to each Concept in the CMAP. The user guide will direct you on how to create each of these. Here are some examples of the icons:



The little “tree” icon under the concept means that this Concept allows you to link to another CMAP file. The name of that file appears in the blue underlined text.



The “document” or “page” icon means that the Concept links to some type of resource: A web page, a spreadsheet, and image file, and so on. Multiple resources can be added to a single Concept. **Note: For the 7210 activities using CMAP, you will be asked to contribute multiple resources, and to also link to CMAP files branching from the main CMAP file. It is therefore important that you dedicate some time to becoming familiar with these icons, and with the procedures for adding resources and new CMAP files, and so on.**

- The CMAP allows for real-time collaborations between entities all over the world, as long as all people have downloaded a free copy of the CMAP software, and the CMAP file being worked on is hosted on an server (either the IHMC free server – which we are using – or a personal server). Clearly, all participating members must have internet access to use this product.
- Once a CMAP has been developed, and is in a state near completion, the CMAP can be converted into a hyperlinked web page. This means that it can be displayed just like any web page, and can be accessed by anyone with internet access. The persons accessing the CMAP web page do not need to have CMAP installed on their computers.
- CMAP access for a particular folder or document can be restricted to a specific group of individuals. This means that it can be used in environments where participants do not wish to have their CMAPs viewed by others, or where privacy and security online are a consideration (for example, with children).

## LEARNING HOW TO ADD CONCEPTS, RESOURCES, AND KNOWLEDGE TO CMAP

To become more oriented to the “conceptual” idea behind CMAP, please review one or more of the following tools:

1. CMAP tutorial videos are available at <http://cmap.ihmc.us/videos/index.php>. I recommend the following tutorials:
  - a. **Introduction to the Views window.**
  - b. **Creating concepts and propositions.**
  - c. **Adding resources.**
2. A zipped version of the help file can be downloaded from <http://cmap.ihmc.us/Support/help/IHMCCmapTools-Help.zip>. Note that you will need a WinZip program to unzip the file.
3. A PDF version of the help file can be downloaded from <http://cmap.ihmc.us/Support/help/IHMCCmapTools-Help.pdf>.

### OUR CLASS ACTIVITY:

A few weeks ago we participated in an “introductory” discussion on distance education, using the BlackBoard discussion board. One of the things that you may have noticed as a participant, is that these kinds of discussions yield large numbers of posts, a broad and divergent series of perspectives, and lots of reading and writing work for the participant. You may also have been left with somewhat of an “uneasy” feeling about the discussion wrapping up without a clear conclusion – so many thoughts, so much content. What was the new result? What did we really learn?

In cases like this, I have found that CMAP can play a powerful role in allowing us to take a step back from the rich and thorough discussion that took place, and to use the content (i.e. knowledge) generated through the discussion to create a “snap shot” knowledge map that highlights the key ideas, and thereby giving an easier-to-work-with representation of the final outcome from the discussion. To demonstrate this, I have re-read all the posts contributed to the discussion, and I have created my take on the key ideas and considerations that have been added to that discussion. For this activity, we will revisit some of the topics from the online discussion, but this time we will flesh those topics out by collaboratively working on a CMAP. Note: We will not be revisiting all the content covered in the discussion. Since our focus this week is on Implementation issues in distance education, we would focus our CMAP activity around those contributions from the discussion that relate to Implementation.

To complete this activity, please do the following:

1. Open CMAP on your computer.
2. Click on the My Favorites icon. The \_\_7210\_\_ folder should appear there.
3. Click on the \_\_7210\_\_ folder.

4. Click on the file titled “Central constructs and issues in DL – Implementation” . The CMAP that I have generated will appear.
  - a. Constructs that have direct implications for Implementation in DL have been represented in dark blue, with white font.
  - b. Each construct related to Implementation has been linked to a new CMAP. If you click on the linked CMAP you will find a generally-empty CMAP, with only one Concept on it. This is the main concept that I would like you to use to add your thoughts on Implementation issues in DL. Each of these linked CMAPs also includes a central question, which appears when you hover over the Main Concept. Please use the question to begin contributing to the CMAP with your knowledge.
5. To fulfill the expectations for this activity you will be asked to do the following:
  - a. Contribute at least 3 concepts, as well as their propositional links, to the CMAPs about Implementation.
    - i. Your concepts may branch off the Main Concept for the CMAP, or they may branch off of concepts contributed by others in the class.
  - b. Contribute at least 3 resources (a minimum of one research per contributed concept), to illustrate or elaborate on, the Concept you have contributed.
  - c. Provide a narrative description of each Concept you are describing. In other words:
    - i. Describe any terms or ideas that relate to the Concept and that others may not be familiar with.
    - ii. Explain how the concept relates to Implementation issues in DL.
    - iii. Explain how the concept relates to the Main Question for the CMAP you are contributing to.
    - iv. Summarize (very briefly), the content of the Resource(s) you contribute for the Concept.

Note: I have added a link to the CMAP where I will post any topics that are “technical” help needs with working with CMAP. This CMAP can be accessed by linking from the Help Concept.

Note 2: I have enhanced the CMAP to add some of my own thoughts about Implementation issues from the instructors standpoint in DL. These are contributions beyond those made to the online discussion. This CMAP will give you a sense of how to proceed with the activity, and is also a section I would really like to see you add your ideas to.

## CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATION FOR CMAP:

Want to know more about the conceptual foundation for CMAP? Please peruse (i.e. review “lightly”) the information located at:

<http://cmap.ihmc.us/Publications/ResearchPapers/TheoryCmaps/TheoryUnderlyingConceptMaps.htm>

Pay special attention to the following sections;

- Constructing Good Concept Maps

- The following sections from the “A New Model for Education” subheading:
  - A Concept Map-Centered Learning Environment
  - Focus Question, Parking Lots and Expert Skeleton Maps
  - The World of Science Project