

## **1A2 Sharing Knowledge in the Internet through a Collaborative System**

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### **Abstract:**

First, we comment the necessity of constructing tools or systems that implement models for knowledge management of communities of users.

Second, we introduce our proposed system, called KnowCat. It is a distributed non-supervised web-based groupware system for structuring knowledge and its purpose is to enable the crystallisation of collective knowledge as the result of user interactions. The system allows the building of places where we can find the relevant knowledge about an area or topic. These places are called "KnowCat Sites" or KnowCat nodes.

Third, we explain the applications of the system: the generation of quality educational materials as the automatic result of student interactions with the materials; and the generation and the maintenance of collective knowledge of a research group.

Next, we describe in detail the system KnowCat, which is based on the concept of "Knowledge Crystallisation", supported by virtual communities of experts. We present two examples of KnowCat sites: the first one about Operating Systems, which has been created by students of several Operating Systems' courses, and another one about Uncertain Reasoning, that has been created by students of several graduate Computer Science courses.

Finally, we make some conclusions and comment on open issues in the context of our approach.