

THEN HIER Graduate Student Project Report

Eric Poitras, Ph.D. Candidate, McGill University

2012

MetaHistoReasoning Tool (MHR-T)

Evaluate the trustworthiness of a source of information by determining whether it exhibits any signs of bias according to each criteria. Please click the help button if you have any questions in regards to each type of historical thinking. Once finished, click the button that says click here when you are finished!

Click here when you are finished!

Criteria (1 of 7)

Author's Position:

Did the author have the proper social status or ability to observe/report the event?

Note any reference to the occupation, profession, level of training, or other credentials of the author of the document in order to suggest that the document is a more or less reliable account of the event.

Evaluate the trustworthiness of the source

Justify your evaluation of the source

JACADIAN FRENCH. 171

(Translated from the French.)

IN THE KING'S NAME.

A Commission of His Excellency EDWARD CORNWALLIS, Captain General, Governor in Chief, and Vice Admiral in the Province of Nova Scotia or Acadie, Colonel in His Majesty's Service, and Gentleman of his chamber.

He received by the deputies, a letter from the French inhabitants of this province, dated August 1st, newstyle, in which they ask us to grant them priests, and the free and public exercise of their religion, and also that they shall not be obliged to take up arms in case of war, even should the province be attacked.

Edward Cornwallis, Captain General, Governor in Chief, and with the advice of the Council, publish and declare, that provided the said inhabitants be and continue the true and loyal subjects of the King of Great Britain, we will grant them priests and the free and public exercise of their religion, provided always that no priest shall presume to officiate without having obtained permission from the Governor or Commander in Chief of the province, and without having taken the oath of allegiance to the King.

We do hereby give notice by order and in the name of the King that His Majesty is not willing that any of his subjects, who possess habitations and lands in this province, shall be seduced from an entire allegiance or from the natural obligation to defend themselves, their habitations, their lands, and their Government under which they enjoy so many advantages.

Accordingly, in order to execute the orders of his Majesty, we do hereby command, that at the earliest opportunity, some officers of the King's Majesty's French settlements, viz. to the Annapolis River, to Grand Pré, and to Chiacecto who shall administer the oath to the said French inhabitants; and we do hereby command the said officers to see that they do not permit any of the said French inhabitants to enjoy their possessions under the pretext of their Majesty, to consent themselves in

Full View

The aim of this report is to provide an overview of the objectives and activities that were conducted as part of the MetaHistoReasoning tool Website Project, a THEN HiER Graduate Student Project that was awarded to Eric Poitras on July 25th, 2011.

Advanced Technologies for Learning in
Authentic Settings Laboratory
McGill University
eric.poitras@mail.mcgill.ca
<http://www.mcgill.ca/atlas-lab/>

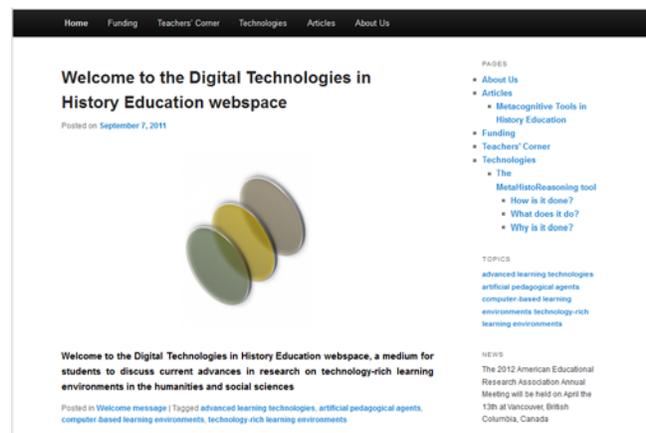
The MetaHistoReasoning Tool Website Project

The aim of this report is to provide an overview of the project objectives and activities in relation to the MetaHistoReasoning tool Website Project. The initiative was funded by the Graduate Student Project Program of The History Education Network/Histoire et Éducation en Réseau (THEN/HiER) in the amount of \$2,420.

The objectives of the project were three-fold, namely (1) creating a webspace to disseminate knowledge pertaining to the MetaHistoReasoning tool, a computer-based learning environment that was designed to teach students how to reason about the causes of historical events, (2) the purchase of new equipment to enable the development of a tablet-based version of the software application, and (3) to disseminate the findings of our research and promote the website at the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for the Study of Education held at Wilfrid Laurier University. In the following sections of this report, I will outline the activities that were conducted to meet each objective.

The Digital Technologies in History Education Webspace

The Digital Technologies in History Education Webspace (www.digitaltechinhistoryed.com) is a blog designed to facilitate and promote accessibility to the latest developments and innovations in digital technology and media in Canadian history education. In doing so, it enables users to identify and reflect on the key issues and challenges that are faced by students who learn about complex historical topics with advanced learning technologies, and how those technologies can assist learners to overcome them.



The webspace currently features the MetaHistoReasoning tool, a computer-based learning environment that was designed to teach students how to reason about the causes of historical events. Students are able to learn through performing an authentic task that involves investigating the reasons for why an historical event occurred. They are provided with a range of different historical sources, both primary and secondary, to formulate an explanation for the occurrence of the event under investigation. In doing so, the software provides students with a variety of tools to assist them in their investigation – an artificial pedagogical agent that provides tutoring, a set of instructional videos, the explanation palette, the annotation tool, and a digital library.

Towards the Development of a Tablet-Based Application

In order to develop a tablet-based version of the MetaHistoReasoning tool software, funds were allocated for the purchase of an Acer 10.1 inch W500-BZ412 Tablet. The tablet enables us to demonstrate proof of concepts, and most importantly to begin the development of a revised version of the software that could be implemented as a tablet-based application.



The purchase of this equipment represents an important step in the context of our wider research program that aims to implement the software on computers, tablets, and mobile phones. In doing so, we hope to extend the number of users, which is currently limited to participants in our laboratory, to include students in schools and visitors in museums.

Although in the initial version of the grant submission, I had planned to purchase the Lenovo ThinkVision L2440P Wide LCD Monitor, I chose to purchase the Acer Tablet instead. It includes many of the functionalities that were required to implement the software, and at a reduced cost.

The Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for the Study of Education

The Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for the Study of Education was held from the 26th to the 30th of May 2012 at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Canada. I presented our recent findings in relation to the effectiveness of the MetaHistoReasoning tool at a session of the Canadian Association for Educational Psychology. This association focuses on the application of psychology to education and includes a number of special interest groups revolving around self-regulated learning, special education, and cultural differences in education.

The session was entitled “Technology for Supporting Active Learning and Self-Regulation.” The chair of the session was Nadia Nosworthy from the University of Western Ontario. The discussant was Richard Schmid from Concordia University. There were two presentations scheduled in the session. The first focused on the different aspects that characterized proficiency in learning through historical inquiry with the MetaHistoReasoning tool (Authors: Eric Poitras, Susanne Lajoie, and Yuan-Jin Hong). The second related to differences in pedagogical practices in learning with the benefit of electronic portfolios (Authors: Ann-Louise Davidson and Nadia Naffi).

