Social Tools Talk and Knowledge Café

A **knowledge café** is a simple means for a group of people to have an open, creative conversation on a topic of mutual interest to gain a deeper collective understanding of the subject and the issues involved.

Frequently on the topic of knowledge management, knowledge cafes involve a group of people breaking into smaller round-table groups of 5-6 people, in order to engage in discussion on a specific topic. After a pre-determined amount of time, all but one of the participants at each table will move to a new table, and those left at the table will give a summary of the discussion that took place at their table, whilst the new people at that table will likewise provide a summary of what transpired at their respective tables.

By repeating the process several times, it allows attendees to gain information from a range of resources in a more efficient way than having to engage with each person present on an individual basis.

The process is a derivative of The World Café, a process developed by Juanita Broan and David Isaacs and a worldwide community of practice.

PROFILE OF DAVID GURTEEN

David Gurteen has over thirty years' experience working in high technology industries. Today he works as an independent educator and coach helping people to be more creative and innovative and to work more effectively together.

He is the founder of the Gurteen Knowledge Community - a global learning network of over 14,000 people in 150 countries. The community is for people who are committed to making a difference; people who wish to share and learn from each other and who strive to see the world differently, think differently and act differently. Members receive the monthly Gurteen Knowledge Letter that is now in its sixth year.

David is also the publisher of the Gurteen Knowledge Website - the largest resource website of its kind that contains book reviews, articles, people profiles, event calendars, inspirational quotations, an integral knowledge-log and more on subjects that included knowledge management, learning, creativity, innovation and personal mastery.

A frequent speaker and facilitator, he regularly presents on various aspects of knowledge management and informal learning. He is well known for his Gurteen Knowledge Cafes that he runs regularly in London and in other cities around the world. He also facilitates Knowledge Cafes and workshops for other organisations.

For most of his career David was a professional software development manager and in the late 80s worked for Lotus Development as "International Czar" where he was responsible for ensuring that Lotus products were designed for the global marketplace.