

People: Maier, et al. **Institutions:** Portland State, Villanova, VaTech
Project : Personal Information Enhancement (part of Sidewalk Project)

What?
 Sidewalk project: Superimposed tools for faculty and students in classroom and research; with emphasis on use with digital libraries.

Why?
 Tools are largely aimed at constructing personal views of an information space, reflect perspective of an individual.

- Not a mechanistic process
- Involves judgments about elements of the space
- *Filtering* to the germane parts of a document
- *Supplementing* material with information not available in original sources: comments, links, structure.

Call this activity **Personal Information Enhancement (PIEnh)**

How?
 Building, extending, converting SI tools that support PIEnh, using SPARCE middleware. Providing both:

Additive enhancements: Elaborations of an information space via annotations, links, classification, restructuring, added organization

Subtractive enhancements: Selection of relevant fragments, removal of extraneous material

Results so far:

Multiple superimposed tools supporting PIEnh, e.g.,

- Active Strand Maps: “guided tour” through material associated with a lesson
- Sidepad: Scrapbook for excerpts preserving context
- IMHC concept-mapping tools extended to support sub-document reference

Evaluation underway with grad students, HS students

