

Capture your innovation process

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Abstract—The continuous evolution of the innovation world requires tools to facilitate knowledge exchange, experience sharing, and interdisciplinary teamwork for innovation, design, and implementation of solutions. To keep up, documentation must become more user-friendly, learnable, accessible, and shareable through meaningful and effective documentation practices.

As the complexity of documentation presents challenges, innovators, creators, and hackers have turned to alternative communities and tools such as blogging and makers, as well as programming, in search of more efficient documentation processes. Authors and readers concur that documentation tools, once seen as desirable, are now equally indispensable in minimising the effort required for documentation, collaboration, knowledge extraction, and sharing.

With the advent of AI tools, documentation is expected to see a tremendous boost in its efficiency and effectiveness. AI has the potential to optimise the documentation process, making it more efficient and effective. This can lead to better utilisation of our knowledge and drive progress for humankind.

Index Terms—documentation, knowledge, AI, collaboration

I. INTRODUCTION

In the world of innovation and research, documentation plays a critical role in advancing our knowledge and driving progress. By documenting our experiences and sharing our findings with others, we create opportunities for new perspectives, spur breakthrough ideas, foster collaboration and help with communication among different stakeholders.

During the IdeaSquare Open Doors, I will be giving a talk on the significance of documentation in innovation and research. Join me as we delve into the power of documentation to drive innovation and bring people together to solve complex challenges. Additionally, we will explore the role of AI in enhancing the documentation process and maximising its impact, helping us to make better use of our knowledge and drive progress for humankind.

By harnessing the power of open spaces like IdeaSquare, we can encourage open documentation practices and unlock the full potential of our collective knowledge for a brighter future.

II. INNPROGRESS: A USER-FRIENDLY DOCUMENTATION SOLUTION

SDG.InnProgress.ch does not introduce a new fundamental way for users to share their project progress during the creation process, but it does combine three key features: step creation and editing, uploading audio and video, and hypertext editing. These parameters can be adjusted to accommodate different user interactions and goals. The focus of SDG.InnProgress.ch

is on the design process, allowing users to iterate their projects by creating new branches and disregarding unsuccessful ones.

The combination of capturing and text-based description features in SDG.InnProgress.ch allows participants to document their work, even without prior experience. Users choose their own way and approach of documenting and this is what is most needed in hands-on events. A coach is necessary to guide them on what to document and how it benefits both themselves and others in the future.

Simplifying the process of creating and organizing documentation is crucial, especially for younger audiences who may not be familiar with the project. Tools like drag and drop make the process much easier, allowing users to go through steps, as well as being able to modify and rearrange them. While other platforms like Github, Doxygen, JavaDoc, and Google Doc have similar features, they may not be as user-friendly, leading to confusion and a lack of organisation. This can cause an author with limited background in documentation or an aversion to it to abandon the project documentation entirely. SDG.InnProgress.ch provides a convenient solution for documenting the creation process of a prototype. Authors can choose to upload videos or images that clearly illustrate the steps involved, making it easier to understand than just text alone. This allows for greater interaction and engagement, as readers can ask questions or leave comments, and the authors can receive notifications for replies or updates on the project.

III. CONCLUSION

Documentation comes at a cost of time and effort from both participants and coaches. Participants who are eager to document need proper guidance and instructions on what to document and how to maximize the benefits from it.

Finding motivation for documentation is crucial. Participants need to understand why they should document, as well as how it will benefit them and others in the future. These questions must be answered clearly to help participants stay motivated.

However, just having motivation is not enough to overcome the challenges of documentation. If a participant finds it difficult to write, they may abandon the documentation. This is why having easy-to-use, user-friendly, and efficient tools is important to encourage participants to document their work. Tools such as recording videos, uploading images or AI writing tools (e.g. ChatGPT) can make the documentation process much simpler and enjoyable.