

In search of an adequate yet affordable tutor in online learning networks

- Peter Sloop, Peter van Rosmalen, Liesbeth Kester, Francis Brouns, Rob Koper - ICALT 2006, Kerkrade

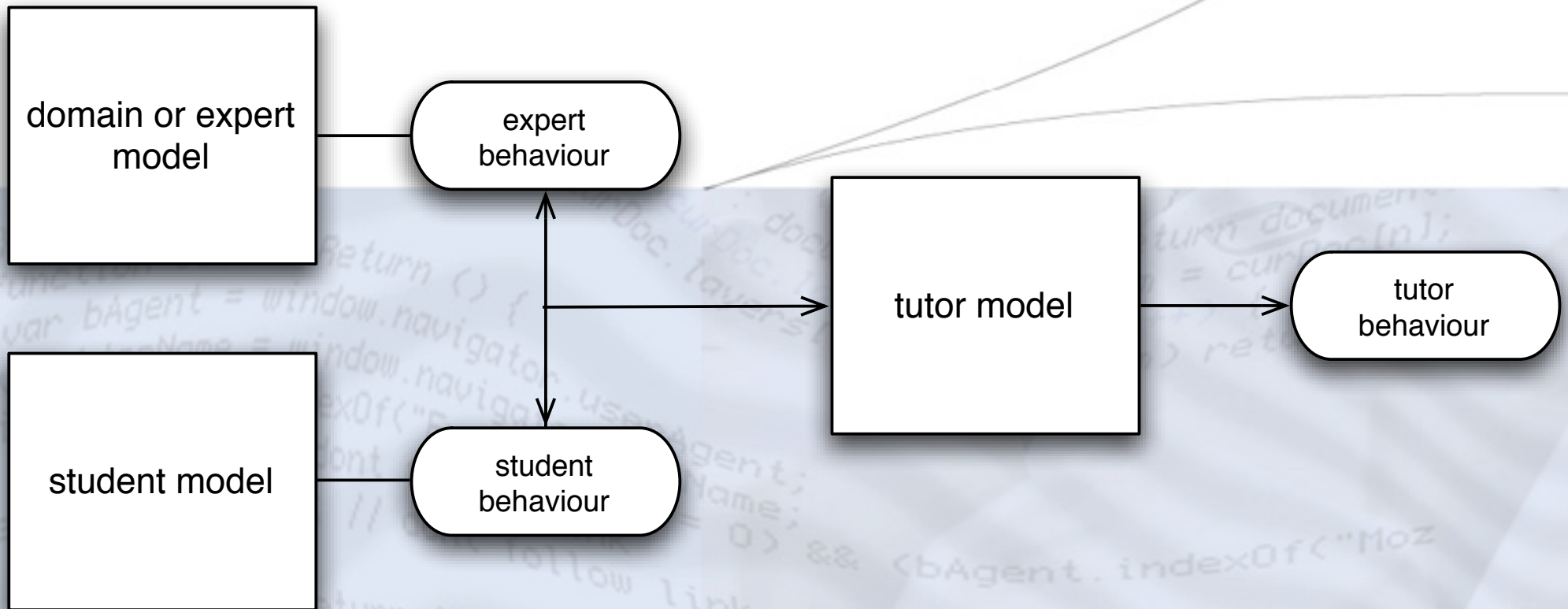
The challenge of the social web

- In offline environments, because of time-space constraints, you can only afford to know a limited number of people.
 - But is the right person among those?
- In online environments, there are lots of people with whom you could get in touch easily.
 - But how do you find the right persons?

Our specific problem

- Problem: students in online learning environments, particularly those who are not organised in cohorts, cannot easily obtain answers to the questions they may have
- Subsidiary problem: lone learner problem
- Subsidiary problem: teacher bandwidth problem.

Solution 1: intelligent tutoring system



Conclusion

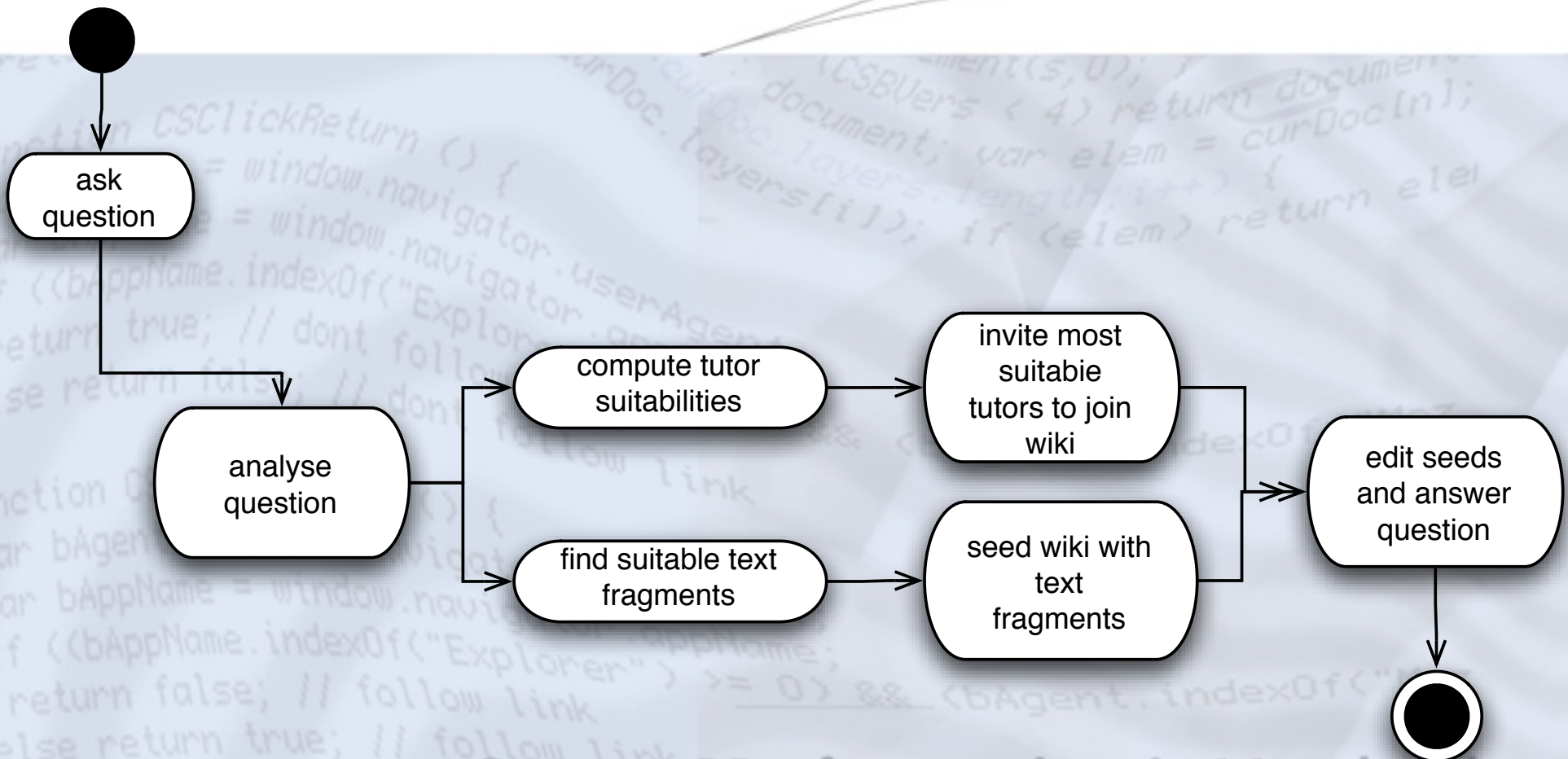
- Addresses the problem of getting an answer
- Addresses the teacher bandwidth problem
- Does not address the lone-learner problem
- Is inflexible, hence costly to maintain

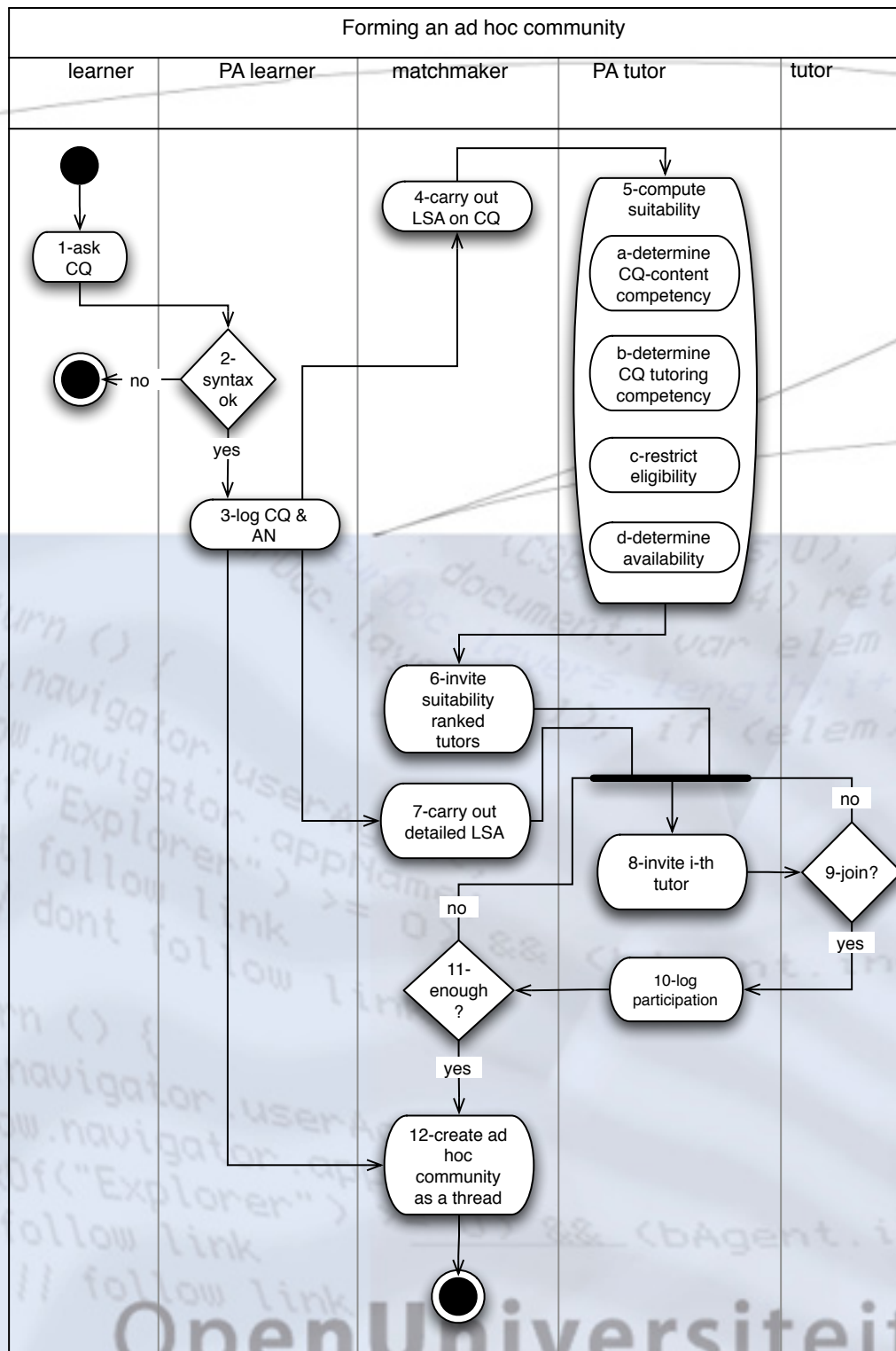
Solution 2 ad hoc transient communities

learner

matchmaker

peer tutor





documents

	1	2	3			j			m
<i>ape</i>	5	11	0						
<i>left</i>	1	2	33						
<i>the</i>	110	156	144						
<i>kind</i>	25	19	0						
i						$fr(ij)$			
n									$f(mn)$

terms

question

B

A

C

Conclusion

- Addresses the problem of getting an answer
- Addresses the teacher bandwidth problem
- Addresses the lone-learner problem
- Is flexible, hence cheap to maintain
- Check out p. 132, latent semantic analysis in small-scale corpora by Jan van Bruggen and other