Title of Session: EuroLang - The Virtual Resource Center
Moderator: Bee Dieu
Guest Speaker: Vance Stevens
Title of File: 20031123Elang
Date: November 23, 2003

Tapped In transcript for 2003.11.23 12:11:50
Room: After School Online

BeeD: Welcome to tonight's session of the Euro Language Teachers Forum! Vance Stevens will present "The Virtual Resource Center".
BJ: We usually start all the discussions with introductions.
VanceS: but we all know each other
BeeD: even though we know each other...
BeeD: just for the records
VanceS: ok
JeanMC: Jean Michel, in Bucaramanga, Colombia
DafneG: Dafne from Venezuela in Spain, ESP teacher
VanceS: I'm Vance, presenting tonight on Virtual Resource Centers, all the way from Abu Dhabi
BeeD: Barbara Dieu teaches English at the Lycee Pasteur, a Franco-Brazilian school in Sao Paulo, Brazil and is also responsible for the Time Classroom Twinning activity in Time project
BeeD: Buth...Maria?
VanceS: Buth teaches English at Kuwait University
JenniferK1: Greetings from Minot, North Dakota, USA
ButhainaA: I'm Buthaina , an EFL from Kuwait, Kuwait University
VanceS: Maria is from Spain, Cadiz?
DafneG: Cordoba
MariaJ: I am from Cordoba
MariaJ: Spain
JeanMC: only 2 Europeans!
AlainKr joined the room.
VanceS: and Alain, welcome, time for one more introduction
MariaJ: but I collaborate in a project with the University of Cadiz, also Spain
AlainKr: Good evening all
BeeD: Welcome Alain! We are introducing ourselves
BeeD: My son is traveling to Cadiz in two weeks...he will be doing a project at the university
DavidEL joined the room.
AlainKr: OK, I teach English to 15-18 year olds in France
BeeD: Welcome David...
VanceS: I'll pop in the URL for tonight while we are waiting for David to introduce himself
VanceS: http://www.mli.ac.ae/vlrc/t2t2003.htm
DafneG: hi David

DavidEL: Hello.
VanceS: welcome
DavidEL: I teach computer science online to secondary students.
VanceS: and I guess I'll start in on why I created this presentation
BeeD: Wow Vance...this looks very complete!
VanceS: well, nothing is complete, which is why I was hoping you might help me with it
VanceS: At one time I had laid out a plan for a Resource Center that didn't get built for years
VanceS: so in some frustration and also because I wanted there to be a portal for it, I started this VLRC project
BeeD: Who would this be aimed at, Vance?
VanceS: the page at mli.ac.ae is on the MLI server
VanceS: and there is a java mockup of what I conceived the LRC to be like
VanceS: so just to steer you about the site, I gave it as a presentation where there was no internet connection
DavidEL: Although the Java applet doesn't seem to be working.
VanceS: so there are 'presentation links' which are screen shots of what I showed everyone
VanceS: the java applet is just a gimmick, a panoramic shot of the virtual LRC I mocked up, not important
AlainKr: Applet works fine in Orleans
DavidEL: ok
BeeD: Who was the presentation for?
VanceS: actually it's not working on my computer either, must be a java setting in the browser
VanceS: It was aimed at a live audience and was also to show colleagues what resources could be made available at our outreach sites
VanceS: I conceived the LRC to be based in Abu Dhabi but reachable via the Internet
ButhainaA: Ok, I understand , now, Vance. I wondered about the Screen shots and why you showed them instead of the sites.
JenniferK1: I looked at the site yesterday and found your compilation of research links very valuable. Are we ready to start the discussion?
VanceS: yes, the shots are there as a record really but the interesting links are under ONLINE LINKS where you can go explore
VanceS: yes, I certainly am, and what I am hoping to get out of this discussion is about 100 new leads
VanceS: or 50 or even 3 would be great

AlainKr: Stop haggling, will you
VanceS: what do you think of the concept? Do you have any experience with this sort of site?
VanceS: for you, Alain, two and a half
JenniferK1: I work with k-6 grade teachers and part of my job is to find links that can be integrated into their curriculum
AlainKr: I had a quick glance, I'm not sure I understand what makes it new...
AlainKr: Ta !
JenniferK1: I saw the site as a research compilation

VanceS: well it's not meant to be new so much as useful

BeeD: I have my own website with suggestions for teachers and students...can show you the site map if you wish

VanceS: to gather a number of links into a place where visitors to a learning center or center site might find what they are looking for

AlainKr: What I meant was I didn't have enough time to explore all the possibilities.

AlainKr: OK

JenniferK1: http://stream.minot.k12.nd.us/index.php?isSecondary=1&page=1&PHPSESSID=003d98415dc49db2b47055601a86d46b

JenniferK1: try this link for our district's Theme page.

VanceS: I started with some actual library sites, other sites that intend to serve as portals for people with similar agendas

ButhainaA: I'm familiar with some of the sites included in your presentation, however, having them all in one page is what I find useful and easy to get.

DafneG: you do not have Webheads in Action under Communities

DafneG: I agree with Buth

BeeD: You can have a look at this spider web http://members.tripod.com/the_english_dept/Inspiration/sitemap.html

VanceS: looking at Jennifer's site, interesting

JenniferK1: I really enjoy the depth of your page

JeanMC: I also agree with Buth and Dafne

BeeD: Lots of material Jennifer

CarlosGst8 joined the room.

DafneG: I like the way you classified the index

BeeD: Welcome Carlos

DafneG: hi Carlos

AlainKr: Wow, Bee, pretty impressive too..

VanceS: under communities I link to another page where my faves are listed http://www.geocities.com/vance_stevens/collabor.htm

DafneG: I love that mind map

ButhainaA: Actually, I have already modified some sessions for next semester , adding links and activities from your LCR , Vance.

ButhainaA: I was so happy, I found many things I needed and was trying to find long time ago.

VanceS: interesting web, is that Bee or Spider ...?

BeeD: Yes..having all the links at hand is extremely useful...I collect them and update them regularly

DafneG: oh, you have WiA under professional development, now I see

VanceS: Ah that's where it is

ButhainaA: Bee, I'll have to open another window, a bit confused as I have many windows opened already.

JenniferK1: How would you suggest introducing this to students at an elementary level

VanceS: now I would add learning times and real English online to my prof dev page

DafneG: right

DafneG: I think that under e-learning you can find material for students, Jennifer

VanceS: My site is directed at adult learners but as they are ESL at varying levels sites for young learners can be appropriate

VanceS: do any of you use such sites?

BeeD: I thought your site was basically directed at ESL/EFL teachers...

VanceS: or do you have a library that you frequent online?

VanceS: yes Bee, I've been trying to get stuff for learners in there but perhaps couched in sites where teachers can direct them to it

DavidEL: I use http://www.questia.com but it is a paid service.

VanceS: how does that work?

DavidEL: There is also the Internet Public Library.

ButhainaA: Wow, the site map is amazing, Bee.

BeeD: I have special libraries for each class at school...

JenniferK1: where is the site map you are referring to?

DafneG: I have a page where I compiled pages where students and teachers can find exercises http://www.geocities.com/dygonza/usb/usb-id110.html It was created for a remedial course

BeeD: it is where they get the links appropriate for what they are doing...

DafneG: sorry I interrupted you, Bee

BeeD: it's all right

VanceS: Internet Public Library http://www.ipl.org/

JenniferK1: Wow, nice job

BeeD: From the school page of the English Department, students can go to their classes or to the activities we engage in during the year

BeeD: http://members.tripod.com/the_english_dept/school.html

JenniferK1: Not sure if this will work but it is full of online references. Can I paste a LOT of info into this?

BeeD: so under activities for instance...you can find Phil's Viva project...a series of forums where students debate several issues and topics

VanceS: can you paste the source url Jennifer?

JenniferK1: ON LINE REFERENCE TOOLS

JenniferK1: Dictionaries and thesauri

JenniferK1: American Heritage Dictionary

JenniferK1: Dictionary.com

JenniferK1: Encarta World English Dictionary

JenniferK1: Merriam-Webster Online

JenniferK1: yourDictionary.com

JenniferK1: Special terms and glossaries

JenniferK1: Academia Press Dictionary of Science & Technology www.harcourt.com/dictionary

JenniferK1: Acronym Finder

JenniferK1: Brewer's Phrase and Fable

JenniferK1: FindLaw Dictionary

JenniferK1: FOLDOC Computing Dictionary

JenniferK1: Glossaries

JenniferK1: Matisse's Glossary of Internet Terms

JenniferK1: NetLingo Dictionary of Internet Words

JenniferK1: TechEncyclopedia
JenniferK1: Webopedia Online Computer Dictionary
JenniferK1: whatis.com
JenniferK1: Encyclopedias and almanacs
JenniferK1: Daily Almanacs
JenniferK1: eLibrary
JenniferK1: Encarta Encyclopedia
JenniferK1: Britannica.com
JenniferK1: Encyclopedia.com
JenniferK1: EncycloZine
JenniferK1: Farmers' Almanac
JenniferK1: FindArticles.com
JenniferK1: The Internet Archive
JenniferK1: The Old Farmer's Almanac
JenniferK1: Refdesk.com
JenniferK1: World Book Online
JenniferK1: The World Factbook
JenniferK1: Translations
JenniferK1: AltaVista's Babel Fish
JenniferK1: Gist-In-Time
JenniferK1: PROMPT-Reverso Online
JenniferK1: Systranet.com
JenniferK1: WorldLingo Translator
JenniferK1: services/worldlingo _translator.html
JenniferK1: Maps and atlases
JenniferK1: EarthaMaps
JenniferK1: Expeida.com Maps
JenniferK1: MapBlast!
JenniferK1: MapQuest
JenniferK1: Maps.com
JenniferK1: National Atlas of the United States
JenniferK1: National Geographic's Map Machine
JenniferK1: National Imagery and Mapping Agency
JenniferK1: TerraServer
JenniferK1: msn.com/default.asp
JenniferK1: U.S. Geological Survey
JenniferK1: WorldAtlas.com
JenniferK1: Omnibus reference resources
JenniferK1: Atomica Corporation
JenniferK1: products_web.html
JenniferK1: Bartleby.com
JenniferK1: Bibliomania
JenniferK1: Infoplease.com
JenniferK1: xrefer
JenniferK1: did it work?
BJ: Jennifer, if the text you're copying has returns....that's what will happen

VanceS: well these will give me more leads

BeeD: Thanks for all this Jennifer....but let's listen to what Vance has to say

VanceS: I don't have so much to say as to discuss with you varying approaches to the problem of accessing resources online

DafneG: the problem is to have them handy

VanceS: do you have LRC's in your own institutes? and do they have portal pages?

BeeD: I usually make my students use the English dept all the time...whatever I want them to do I put it on a page and place it there

BeeD: Our school does not have a portal...so this is the way I found to make them access the net

VanceS: yes it seems you have confronted this problem Bee and I like your mindmap approach

DavidEL: I assist teachers in moving from traditional face-to-face teaching and learning to distributed environments. I have created a number of open access pages for collaborative development. http://learning.sd41.bc.ca/teacher

DavidEL: http://togetherapart.com/ProD.htm

DavidEL: Is that the type of resources you are referring to Vance?

BeeD: This is so nice David

VanceS: I've cataloged a lot of sites as well though haven't updated lately

DavidEL: These are just collections of online resources for teachers to share.

VanceS: http://www.geocities.com/vance_stevens/lnxmainp.htm

VanceS: needless to say a lot of teachers have a lot of web sites up, a lot of them useful

VanceS: my own approach is to organize it my way, so I can make sense of the world around me

VanceS: others have similarly idiosyncratic approaches

VanceS: the trick is to widen your sphere and anticipate the next person over, or maybe someone a few doors down

BeeD: Yes...this is how I started my pages...organizing my links..and then classifying them according to the public

DafneG: the WiA portal is a resource center, too

VanceS: eventually you find that others find it useful, and then you start developing for a wider audience

VanceS: in a way I'm looking for sites that have gone way beyond that, that have some backing and a staff

AlainKr left the room (signed off).

VanceS: I put a variety of those under "Other Virtual Resource Portals"

VanceS: I meant here to place a sampling ranging from free to commercial

BeeD: You have the BBC search English site, which is excellent

VanceS: the HK site is quite good http://vlc.polyu.edu.hk/

BeeD: http://searchenglish.britishcouncil.org

VanceS: any more in this category?

BeeD: http://www.eun.org

VanceS: looks interesting

BeeD: http://www.pbs.org/teachersource/

JeanMC: lot of time to review all these sites!...but it sounds interesting

BeeD: http://www.rockhall.com/programs/plans.asp

BeeD: http://www.keynews.org/
BeeD: and zillions of others...lol
ButhainaA: I use the HK site, Vance, but it's not free anymore.
VanceS: it's not??
ButhainaA: some links I used have changed too.
VanceS: maybe parts of it
ButhainaA: yes, the reading.
ButhainaA: reading, that is.
VanceS: this music site reminds me of Michael Coghlan's pages, only he writes his own music
DavidEL: I don't know if this would be helpful but it's an online library with books. It's a wonderful resource that would be relevant to ESL and elementary learners: http://www.icdlbooks.org/library_pc.html
BeeD: A wonderful Australian site for kids...http://www.abc.net.au/talkitup/
VanceS: I have the virtual bookshelf section. Of course, books are essential to an online library
DavidEL: here's a site with talking / audio books: http://wiredforbooks.org/
VanceS: Project Guttenberg is the most amazing effort, been going for years
VanceS: Michael's site with songs and lessons: http://users.chariot.net.au/~michaelc/
VanceS: If you find an online site, or look for one, for yourself or for your students, what do you hope you'll find there?
BeeD: content
VanceS: An LRC site I mean
BeeD: organized content
JeanMC: information, exercises, links
VanceS: that's a pretty broad questions, eliciting broad answers, my fault
VanceS: you go for so many reasons
VanceS: I like museums that show the art for example
VanceS: ok, another slant on the same question, what categories of organization have I left out?
BeeD: one for museums: http://www.mcn.edu/resources/sitesonline.htm
BJ: Something that might be good to use for ESL activities would be ArtsConnected...www.artsconnected.org
BJ: you can build your own museum collection and add descriptive text
VanceS: THAT's interesting
ButhainaA: Yes, indeed, quite interesting, BJ.
BeeD: and one for life long learning...which I am sure many adult learners may appreciate as it covers different areas http://204.42.170.21/undp/
BJ: there are several transcripts archived on the tutorials that Kevan Nitzberg has done in Tapped In
BJ . o O (about ArtsConnected. Transcripts are at www.tappedin.org/transcripts)
VanceS: on what topic?
VanceS: I think I've got about 98 leads already ... maybe two more so I can reach my goal?
BJ: virtual field trips?
BJ . o O (www.field-trips.org)

VanceS: Hey I shoulda done this BEFORE I gave the presentation
BeeD: http://www.ozline.com/
BJ: Tourmaker software allows you to create field trips like the ones on that page
VanceS: and how things work (if I can think of the url)
BeeD: Well, Vance...I guess you have your 100 links now...
BeeD: and we are at the end of our forum
VanceS: wait one more
VanceS: http://www.howstuffworks.com/
VanceS: that's it
ButhainaA: To answer your question, Vance, I look for activities, games, or articles for reading to integrate in a related session. Such as , TV Commercials Transcript.
BeeD: Next week our topic will be : European Schoolnet: Collaborative Opportunities for School Teachers
VanceS: this has been a lot of fun but it's just turned midnight here
VanceS: thanks very much for keeping the thinking going ALL through the evening
BeeD: On November 30th, Brigitte Parry from European Schoolnet will be with us to discuss collaborative opportunities for schools and see what ideally teachers would need to be better informed and develop better projects.
BJ: thanks, Vance!
ButhainaA: Thanks Vance.
DavidEL: thank you.
BeeD: Thank you Vance for coming and sharing your virtual center with us
VanceS: thank YOU, you're all resource centers