

Title of Session: Blogstreams Salon
Moderator: Bee Dieu
Guest Speaker: Josie Frasier
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JosieF: Where is everyone from? I'm afraid this is my first time here

JosieF: I'm in Leicester, which is in the middle of England

BeeD: So we are all going to introduce ourselves for the records..thanks for starting Josie

BJB2: Welcome to the Blogstreams Salon with special guest Josie Frasier.

MariaCB: I'm Claudia from Argentina

SasaSi: I'm in Nova Gorica, Slovenia

JamesMH: I am Jamie from Iwate, Japan

Maggi: **Maggi** from Germany

BeeD: I'm Barbara Dieu and teach EFL at the Franco Brazilian school in Sao Paulo, Brazil. I also co-run Dekita.org with Aaron Campbell and Rudolf Ammann from Japan

BJB2 is an art teacher in Pennsylvania, US

JosieF: Wow!

NathanL is a teacher educator in Colorado US

FredK: I'm with the Pushmataha County Literacy Council doing tutoring

BeeD: HI Nathan, long time no see! Good to have you here

JosieF: What an international party you run over here!

NathanL: good to be here, Bee

JeanMC: I am Jean Michel, now in the south of France; generally in Colombia

BeeD: Yes, Tapped In gather a lot of people from all over the world

MariaCB: Nice to meet you Josie!

JosieF: Lovely to meet you all!

BeeD: So it is my pleasure to receive Josie Fraser tonight and she will tell us all about the blogging conference she has just organized in the UK

JosieF: Thanks again for asking me.

BeeD: Josie...how did you have the idea and what was the goal?

JosieF: The idea was motivated by many things - including what is happening internationally, and the communities and connections that are being made...

DavidNo: Hi all. David from Scotland

JosieF: ...with educators who are blogging and interested in web 2.0

BeeD: yes...many of us here are following closely what is happening and trying to implement it in our classes

JosieF: There are a few entry level web 2.0 things being organised here by established people.

JosieF: ...but nothing really that recognises the fantastic level of practice already going on across the UK using web 2.0 techs and methods

JosieF: so, the idea was to look at formalising the existing community

JosieF: in order to drive the agenda forward, share practice and to influence what goes on across the education spectrum

JosieF: So 50 of us got together -

JosieF: from primary to adult education, and also people from work based learning, etc etc

BeeD: Where were the people from? UK predominantly or did you have any international speakers?

JosieF: The delegates and session facilitators were all UK based

JosieF: the key notes were Stephen Downes (Canada)

JosieF: and Barbara Ganley (US)

JosieF: they were fantastic!

BeeD: I hope this has been recorded somewhere!

JosieF: Of course! And you can go read Barbara's speech here:
<http://mt.middlebury.edu/middblogs/ganley/bgblogging>

BeeD: Could you give us some of what they said in a nutshell?

DavidNo: Audio should be available at <http://incsub.org/edublog/> soon (apparently)

BeeD: This is great!

JosieF: The day was very geared towards organising and achieving change within education

JosieF: Barbara particularly stressed the urgency of activism in our area at the moment

JosieF: and the ability we had to make a difference to the learning landscape

JosieF: Stephen encouraged us all to model the behaviours we want to encourage in our learners

JosieF: We had eight working groups in between,

JosieF: looking at a bunch of things, from accessibility issues

JosieF: to software issues and staff development

JosieF: and a whole bunch about digital literacies!

BeeD: Stephen's ppt can be found at <http://www.downes.ca/files/london.ppt>

JosieF: The working groups came out of the day with a bunch of projects to work on and open up to the community

BeeD: and the mp3 audio here <http://www.downes.ca/files/audio/london.mp3>

BeeD: What does Barbara mean exactly by activism in the area?

JosieF: I think that we're currently presented with a huge opportunity to make progress in education, to shift the culture - for some particular reasons

JosieF: in particular - learner experience and expectation

JosieF: and the emergence of techs that are actually easy to use

JosieF: but what is missing is any collective articulation of the possibilities

JosieF: and examples and guidance

JosieF: this is what our group hopes to do in the UK

DavidWe believes there are actually a LOT of examples

BeeD: Yes, this is what have been feeling at Dekita.org as well

JosieF: YES - millions!

JosieF: what is missing is a way of information civilians tapping into these examples

DavidWe . o O (Tapped In !?!)

JamesMH: I am sorry, I have to go to work (It is Monday morning in Japan). I am looking forward to reading the transcript later

DavidWe waves bye to James

BeeD: Thanks for coming James!

JosieF: Thanks for swinging by James!

JamesMH left the room (signed off).

BeeD: What were the main problem areas outlined during the conference?

JosieF: The whole issue of moral panic currently surrounding learner-led technologies came up a few times

BeeD: Moral panic...interesting!

JosieF: and of course the issue of equipping students to be responsible and resilient in their online activities

JosieF: as we'd want them to be off line

BeeD: I have just received a mail from a friend asking me if I had the address to a really private blog to which only invited people would be able to participate

JosieF: and essentially - getting staff as digitally literate as they need to be to deal with all this

BeeD: but this defeats the whole purpose of blogs

JosieF: Well, I would agree in some cases - however,

BeeD listens attentively

JosieF: I've seen some excellent work done with extremely vulnerable groups - children abused through prostitution for example

BeeD: right

JosieF: using closed blog groups

BeeD: OK...I had not envisaged this possibility

JosieF: they wouldn't have worked in any public space

JosieF: There's some stuff going on with victims of domestic violence too

BeeD: but then any other tool would have worked...why a blog and not a forum?

JosieF: Because - a blog gives you a voice

BeeD: OK

DavidNo: Interesting - I podcast with 'Looked After' children, but always had issues with blogging with them.

JosieF: a powerful methodology & tool

JosieF: I think things are as grey online as they are in the offline world!

JosieF: What kind of issues David?

JosieF: I'd also like to state that on the whole I am in favor of publicly based blogging

DavidNo: Mainly around the risk of those who are banned from having any access using this to get around it

DavidNo: Not quite the same 'risk' with podcasting, from what I have experienced

BJB2 . o O (incarcerated youth, for example?)

JosieF: access in terms of network access or in terms of equipment (or both?)

DavidNo: Sorry, abuser access to child victims etc

JosieF: We talked about site banning at an institutional and district level

BeeD: Is blogging banned in the UK?

BeeD: at some schools I mean?

JosieF: Nope - but there are huge anxieties about child abusers here

DavidNo: We seem to be behind the US in terms of Web 2.0 (not by much), therefore 'blog banning' doesn't seem to be on the political horizon

JosieF: to be frank - I think applying the same offline methods that don't work very well to online situations -

BJB2 . o O (you might want to think about using the K-12 Student campus in Tapped In)

BeeD smiles

JosieF: - restricting students freedoms, misrepresenting the reality of child abuse,

JosieF: isn't going to help.

BeeD: Our role as educators is to inform them and teach them how to face this

JosieF: We need to be helping our students to take responsibility for themselves online, and to look after themselves and each other online

DavidNo: Was there an education authority at the conference that had something like 50 active bloggers?

BJB2 . o O (and model appropriate behavior and activities)

BeeD: exactly

JosieF: There were a couple of education authorities represented - that have wide spread activity

JosieF: the Walsall Blogging Machine is a great example

JosieF: I'll find the url!

DavidNo: In Scotland a unit of work entitled 'Internet Safety' is being developed. I looked at the questionnaire that teachers used to help construct content etc. Many areas of read/write web didn't feature eg blogging, MySpace

BeeD: And what steps are envisaged to get staff digitally literate? Because this is also a big challenge. Not many educators understand what blogging is and keep replicating the same old practices in the new environment

JosieF: We had a few ideas for projects come out of the staff development group

JosieF: one is the production of kits to help educators and learners produce guidelines for conduct in web 2.0 environments collectively

JosieF: there are some great examples of that already happening

BeeD: Do you envisage a wiki to put it all together?

JosieF: It was a tough group in some ways because staff development varies across the sector so much

JosieF: but we'll be working on examples of practice, ideas for learning

JosieF: and will also be producing a point of expertise in the area

BeeD: Here is one that was opened recently

BeeD: http://www.edtechtalk.com/wiki/index.php/The_Hallway

JosieF: Is what we are doing happening in other countries?

JosieF: I know we have the advantage of being small!

BeeD: I think we are slowly gathering people

BeeD: and trying to bring examples of good practice

BeeD: from all over the world

JosieF: This year we'll be running an international Learner Edublogging Awards, as well as the practitioner awards

JosieF: I'm very excited about that!

BeeD: I can imagine

SasaSi: I'm sorry, I have to leave, it's getting a bit late for me... I'll check the chatlog tomorrow.

BeeD: We have just launched the Dekita Orchard, where we aggregate std blogs from all over the world

DavidWe waves to Sasa

JosieF: Bye Sasa!

BeeD: <http://dekita.org/orchard/>

BeeD: Thanks for coming Sasa

BeeD: have a great week

SasaSi waves to everybody

SasaSi left the room (signed off).

JosieF: Aggregation is obviously something that was discussed at the conference a lot

JosieF: I'm interested in not making it an overwhelming experience for beginners!

JosieF: and producing feeds that are personalised

BeeD: Would this mean you filter the feeds?

JosieF: Well, that's one way of approaching it

DavidWe . o O (pull information to YOU that YOU want)

JosieF: but that would still only suit some people

BeeD: right

NathanL: are you concerned about people only hearing things they agree with?

JosieF: It's hard because good practice, examples etc are taking place across such a huge net of conversation - how do you access that as a beginner?

NathanL: where does the "counter view" come in?

BeeD smiles

JosieF: Yes - but also, there aren't dedicated web 2.0 education for year 3 geography students etc

JosieF: I like the stuff David Cormier is working on -

DavidWe: like...?

JosieF: his feed book idea

DavidWe: Would you say some more about that idea, Josie?

JosieF: <http://davecormier.com/edblog/?p=39>

BeeD: Sounds interesting

BeeD: I'm working with Dave on the Personal Learning Space - have about 40 stds enrolled in there

DavidWe listens

JosieF: "The feedbook is a collection of feeds (including podcast, blogs and someday soon hopefully vlogs) contained in an open ended opml first seeded by a course instructor and added to (or pared down) according to student needs."

DavidWe smiles

NathanL: a common aggregator .. like SuprGlu?

JosieF: More flexible than that

DavidWe would use duct tape

JosieF: and built for specific learners as well as specific topics/courses

JosieF: lol!

JosieF: Duct tape is great

DavidWe isn't sure what the goal of this is

DavidWe: 1007 uses!

FriedaGst2 joined the room.

BeeD: Welcome Frieda

BeeD: we are almost at the end

FriedaGst2: thanks Barbara

FriedaGst2: I am so sorry

BeeD: Don't worry

FriedaGst2: I was planning a lesson

DavidWe waves to Frieda

BeeD: I can send you the transcript later

FriedaGst2: Thanks

FriedaGst2: Hi all

FriedaGst2: I am an ESOL tutor

FriedaGst2: and also very interested in the use of technology in teaching

DavidWe: That's great, Frieda.

DavidWe: We would encourage you to join Tapped In (it's free) as a member - members have advantages

FriedaGst2: I will join

BeeD: You are among friends

FriedaGst2: How can I see what everyone else is saying?

NathanL: well, first

NathanL: somebody has to say something

FriedaGst2: hehehe

FriedaGst2: ok

BeeD: Josie I would like to thank you for being here with us tonight and giving us some insight of what is happening in the educational sphere in the UK

JosieF: Thanks for having me!

BeeD: let's keep blogging about it

BJB2: Bee and Josie, we only have 5 more minutes left. I hope Josie will be an active participant in this group!

FriedaGst2: It's such a shame that I couldn't join you earlier

BeeD: and spreading the word

JosieF: please do keep an eye on the conference site for more as it unfolds!

BJB2: can you give us the url again, Josie?

JosieF: <http://www.incsb.org/edublog/>

BJB2 . o O (I'll put it in the EduSources room under conferences)

DavidNo: Josie, is the conference site the best place to look for updates. Does it/will it have an RSS feed

JosieF: Yep - it's over at the site

DavidWe: When is this conference happening (happened)?

BeeD: It happened last Friday David

DavidWe nods

DavidWe . o O (merci bien)

JosieF: on Friday - but we will definitely be doing it again!

NathanL . o O (obviously David doesn't subscribe to Ganley or Downes)

JosieF: Take care everyone!

DavidWe waves bye to Josie

BeeD: Thanks Josie and let's keep in touch

JosieF: lol - maybe in their secret lives

NathanL waves to Josie. "Thanks!"

HeatherBu: thanks, Josie

JosieF: Cheers from the UK!

FredK: thanks

DavidWe: Cheers

JosieF left the room (signed off).

DavidWe: Ganley or Downes?

NathanL: www.downes.ca

DavidNo: Cheers

DavidWe: Nice short URL

DavidWe: Can you say anything more, Nathan, please?

FriedaGst2: Bee, have you read my post on your blog about podcasts and the little project I am thinking of developing?

NathanL: <http://mt.middlebury.edu/middblogs/ganley/bgblogging/>

BeeD: Yes Frieda, I answered

NathanL: Stephen Downes is one of the bleeding edge thinkers in distance education

BeeD: You should join Tappedin and come to some Webheads meetings

DavidWe: With a background in any particular field, Nathan?

FriedaGst2: I will join

NathanL: ya .. you'll love this

NathanL: Philosophy

BeeD: Ok

DavidWe: Bleeding edge..?!?!? - he's Canadian, right?

NathanL: ya

NathanL: up in Moncton

DavidWe . o O (middle of Canada, even)

BeeD: Stephen published the Old Daily

BeeD: <http://www.downes.ca/>

NathanL: still does

BeeD: publishes sorry

DavidWe smiles

NathanL: and has a great custom rss tool called edu_rss

DavidWe: Distance education with respect to language learning or just distance ed. in general?

NathanL: he culls hundreds of feeds and strips out key words

NathanL: distance ed as a field

BeeD: distance edu in general

NathanL: education in general actually

DavidWe nods

NathanL: one of his classic notions is

NathanL: Education is water

BeeD: and you are immersed in it

NathanL: when you need to know something you should be able to learn it then

NathanL: like you'd go to the tap for water

DavidWe: Sometimes I have to filter the tap water

NathanL: another of his examples of educational tech is the fishing pole that teaches you how to fish

NathanL: ya .. hang with me long enough and you'll need to change the filter regularly :D

DavidWe: <http://cba.mit.edu/about/index.html>

NathanL: The Stephen is Out There

NathanL: Ganley is in the trenches

DavidWe: One of my classmates is the director of the Center for Bits and Atoms at MIT...some VERY interesting stuff

NathanL: she teaches writing at Middlebury

DavidWe nods

NathanL: uses blogging as publishing and reflection tools with her classes

DavidWe nods

NathanL: and publishes her own reflections on that url i put up a minute ago

NathanL: great stuff

DavidWe sometimes can't really GET the interest in blogging, per se

FriedaGst2: have you used 'social networks' websites as teaching tools?

BeeD: Another inspired blogger is Anne Davis <http://anne.teachesme.com/>

DavidWe isn't a classroom teacher

NathanL: define "social networks websites" Frieda?

DavidWe: I help teachers learn about educational technology, Frieda (if that question was directed towards me)

DavidWe believes Tapped In is a "social networks website"

BeeD: I have been using Flickr , 43 things and 43 places, Frieda

NathanL believes David is right.

BeeD: together with blogging

FriedaGst2: social network websites are sites where you can create an account and share photos, blogs, profiles, quizzes, video, audio and much more

DavidWe: You can do that on a web page, can't you?

FriedaGst2: yes

FriedaGst2: you create your own page

DavidWe: <http://www.eskimo.com/~wex/rue.keller.html>

NathanL . o O (my network is delaying again)

FriedaGst2: and share it with other members of your network

FriedaGst2: those are the only ones allowed to view your content

NathanL . o O (when it catches up, I'll be able to respond to the stuff I haven't seen yet)

DavidWe: I can password protect that URL

DavidWe smiles

FriedaGst2: multiply, bebo, yahoo groups, gazzag are some examples

DavidWe nods

BeeD: Well, mes amis, I have to leave you now...thanks for coming and have a great week. Next Blogstreams will be in August (I am taking a short holiday)

DavidWe . o O (googlepages.com ...I believe)

FriedaGst2: I have used bebo with a group of ESOL learners and they really enjoyed

NathanL: great to see you again Bee

DavidWe . o O (pages.google.com...sorry)

FredK: Enjoy!

BeeD: Ciao

DavidWe: Ciao

DavidWe: Thanks, Bee

FriedaGst2: adeus Bee

FriedaGst2: muito prazer em falar com vc

FriedaGst2: thanks Bee

BeeD: beijinhos Frieda

FriedaGst2: obrigada

BeeD: e ate mais

FriedaGst2: ate mais

BeeD: let's keep in touch

FriedaGst2: it has been great...even for a few minutes

FriedaGst2: see you another time