

Title of Session: The Art of Storytelling

Moderator: BJ Berquist

Guest Speaker: Bernard Robin

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Room: The Art of Storytelling Group

BJB2: Welcome to today's Art of Storytelling discussion. I'm excited to have Bernard Robin as our guest speaker!

BernardR: Hi Everyone.

BJB2: a reminder if you are new to Tapped In to go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat window and click on DETACH

BJB2: we usually start all the discussions in Tapped In with introductions.

BJB2: Please tell Bernard where you are located and what brings you to the storytelling discussion

BJB2: I'm a remedial communications teacher in Pennsylvania and am on Tapped In helpdesk

CaroleMc: I live in Victoria, Australia and I'm the co-ordinator of the Digital Storytelling Network. I am a keen family historian and an elearning consultant.

BernardR: And I'm I professor of instructional technology in the College of Education at the University of Houston since 1993.

KaelaAZ joined the room.

BJB2 . o O (a small, but very distinguished group!)

LeticiaP: I teach ESL and Spanish with adults and k12 and I am interested in storytelling because it is new to me

BJB2: ahhh...and one more participant. Welcome, Kaela

KaelaAZ: thanks

LeticiaP: I invited a coworker she will be along in a little while

BJB2: Kaela, we're just doing introductions

BernardR: Hi Kaela

BJB2: great, Leticia

BJB2: Kaela, can you please tell us where you are located and what you teach?

KaelaAZ: Milwaukee Wisconsin, Fifth grade

BJB2: thanks

BJB2: . o O (a reminder to go to Actions, Kaela, and detach your chat)

LeticiaP: Sorry I am in Riverside, California but have taught in Japan and Turkey in institutions of higher ed

BJB2: I think it's time to turn the virtual floor over to Bernard

BJB2 applauds wildly

BernardR: OK, thanks for having me

BJB2: very cool, Leticia

CaroleMc smiles

BernardR: as I said, I teach at the Univ of Houston and my favorite courses are digital photography, digital storytelling and digital video

CaroleMc: great to hear that Bernard - esp about DST

BJB2: . o O (sounds like you're a digital kind of guy, Bernard)

LeticiaP: do you also teach dst?

BernardR: I used to be a medical photographer and videographer so I was already interested in multimedia just didn't have too much experience with computers

LeticiaP: stupid question-sorry

CaroleMc: no, it's a good q, Leticia, I too would like to know if they have a course in DST at University of Houston

BernardR: What I do now is try to incorporate DS in my digital photo course and my digital video course

BernardR: I also teach a course called "Creating Educational Materials for DS" which allows students to help me with web offerings and conducting DS workshops for teachers and students

BernardR: BTW, most of my courses are for graduate students but I also work with K-12 teachers and their students, as well as some undergrad students at UH

KaelaAZ: I'd like to hear more about those workshops

CaroleMc: me too, I deliver DST workshops here in Aust

BernardR: Thanks! I've also created a website called The Educational Uses of Digital Storytelling Website. The URL to the site is:

BernardR: <http://www.coe.uh.edu/digitalstorytelling/>

BJB2: hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard when you click on the url

BernardR: And there are lots of materials on the site and I'm working with a group of students this semester to do a pretty significant upgrade to the site

LeticiaP: can you give me a short explain. about what DST is? is it telling your story and posting it online?

LeticiaP: This is new to me

BernardR: For the past 2 years or so, I've mostly just been working with creating digital stories with still images using programs like MS Photo Story.

JeffC joined the room.

BJB2: welcome, Jeff

CaroleMc: yes I like that program for beginners too, I also do workshops using Movie Maker

BernardR: The process involves selecting a topic, gathering images, recording narration and adding music --to create a story that's several minutes long

CaroleMc: Leticia, my definition of a digital story is : short digital movie incorporating voice narration, digital images, digital video, music and special effects.

SherryLV joined the room.

KaelaAZ: Is the topic teacher chosen for something in curriculum or is it child chosen?

BernardR: Lately, I've been working with other programs to add video clips to the stories but the process is much the same.

BJB2: Welcome, Sherry.

LeticiaP: thank you

BJB2: Sherry, we're discussing <http://www.coe.uh.edu/digitalstorytelling/>

BernardR: And there can be all kinds of digital stories from personal reflections to descriptions of historical events to stories that inform or instruct

SherryLV: What exactly is digital storytelling?

BJB2 smiles...Carole, use the up arrow on your keyboard to repeat

CaroleMc: Leticia, my definition of a digital story is : short digital movie incorporating voice narration, digital images, digital video, music and special effects.

BernardR: the key is to use technology tools to tell a story that is enhanced by the multimedia capabilities of today's computer hardware and software

CaroleMc: We are finding that teachers can easily produce DST's (short movies) to enhance delivery of their courseware

BernardR: and I've found that since just about everyone enjoys watching movies, they also enjoy watching short movies on the computer

BernardR: and as Carole says, DS can be a great teaching tool but also a great learning tool

KaelaAZ: How do teachers make it available to multiple students at once?

LeticiaP: but is something that either teachers and students can do in the classroom correct, or mainly teachers?

CaroleMc: Kaela, we upload to our shared web spaces or to You Tube

BernardR: Teachers can create a story and show it to the class for sure, but I think DS is even better when students are able to create their own stories

CaroleMc: I agree

KaelaAZ: My district network is really strict though, I am pretty sure You tube is blocked

BernardR: But students do need access to the technology and that sometimes can be challenging in some schools too.

JeffC: post to <http://www.ourmedia.org>

JeffC: . o O (some=most, Bernard?)

CaroleMc: yes that's a better option, but what I'd really like is a digital movie repository that can be embedded into a students' eportfolio

BernardR: we have several faculty in our teacher ed program who are requiring digital stories to go in students' electronic portfolios

JeffC: Why not just link to it Carole? A school district's server would go nuts trying to host a number of video movies (let alone the IT Dept., which is probably already nuts!

CaroleMc: how is that done by the students, Bernard?

BernardR: do a google search on Helen Barrett - she's a leader in e portfolios and DS

CaroleMc: yes I am working with Helen

BernardR: sorry, how is what done Carole?

JeffC: Helen's name and site came up today during the eportfolio discussion:
<http://electronicportfolios.com/>

CaroleMc: Bernard, what system do the students use when uploading their dst's to their electronic portfolios

BernardR: I guess we're very lucky because we have lots of servers and server space for students and a great tech support staff so every COE student has their own directory where they can upload materials

CaroleMc: fantastic

BernardR: and the students learn how to create their own web sites and they add the stories to the websites

KaelaAZ: Is there a place where I can show multiple examples to students who want to know what these are

BernardR: I can send you links to some of our student's portfolios

KaelaAZ: that would be great

CaroleMc: <http://www.breakingbarriers.org.uk/>

CaroleMc: an example from Wales

BernardR: The Capturing Wales project is also pretty interesting

LeticiaP: Bernard, I was looking at your website and for some reason cannot get any of the PPTs to open.

BernardR: I just checked and they seem to be working for me, but I can send them to you if you want. Send me an email: brobin@uh.edu

LeticiaP: thanks, I just got a mac and have to readjust to using one

CaroleMc: Bernard, I'm listening to one your examples 'The Computer and I' - love it.

BernardR: Most of the stories on our site were created in MS Photo Story 3 and only work on a PC. But Mac versions have been created and will be added soon

BernardR: The Computer and I is a great story. And it's contagious. I show it to teachers and they immediately start talking about their own stories they want to create

CaroleMc: Good point, about the Mac users, as we need to be 'inclusive'.

CaroleMc: How do you get your students to 'handle' the copyright issues for the music selected?

BernardR: I also would like to talk about the DS process. I used to have my students just pick a topic and begin finding images Usually on Google. Now they have to write a script first

BernardR: Photo Story has a music creation capability but it's not quite as good as real music but we discuss this a lot. I could spend the entire hour just talking about copyright.

LeticiaP: also could you talk about the time frame of the project and what kind of learner training you do in a DS class

BJB2 . o O (if you ask VERY NICELY, then Bernard doesn't have to cover EVERYTHING in one storytelling discussion...he can focus on one topic today and another next month)

KaelaAZ: Everyone that I see I love. I work with inner city students and this program could be awesome for them to talk about their lives and themselves.

KaelaAZ: I just googled Ms photo story 3 and you can download it for free?? Is this an okay version??

BernardR: The great thing about Photo Story is that it's free. But it only works on PCs so Mac users have to find another program

CaroleMc: Kaela, absolutely, I did some workshops last year with students who were in a leadership program and living in the city. They used Movie Maker on PCs - this is already resident with your Windows XP package.

KaelaAZ: darn, that's okay though. I'm so excited!!

KaelaAZ: currently we only have macs at school

CaroleMc: iMovie is useful for Macs

KaelaAZ: I may be able to write some grants to get some pcs though!

BernardR: Get Photo Story 3 if your computer supports it. It requires Windows XP and a fairly powerful computer, But PS version 2 is also still available--also free and it does pretty much the same thing as version 3

BJB2: iMovie is good, Kaela

CaroleMc: Wow, I just realised that you said Photo Story 3 is available - I must let my network know about that.

LeticiaP: I have seen the iMad do wonderfully for student creating movies with imovie (which is why I just bought my mac)

KaelaAZ: I would have to do a lot of research on it though because working on macs are more difficult for me

BernardR: iMovie is a great program for mac users and I also like Photoshop Elements 4 for both PCs and Macs--good if you have a mix of PC and mac users but it's not free

KaelaAZ: is imovie easy to use?

KaelaAZ: Does it come installed on macs already?

LeticiaP: yes but only on iMacs

KaelaAZ: oh okay

CaroleMc: feel free to check out all resources available in our network at:
<http://www.groups.edna.edu.au/course/view.php?id=107>

LeticiaP: Bernard, can I clear up one quick question? So for DST you use only images, not film as you would with imovie for example?

BernardR: I think iMovie does come on all new macs - pretty sure it came on my new mac mini too.

BernardR: I start out with students who are creating their first digital story by using just still images but very soon students are asking about video and they can use other programs to add video clips and still images-which is what I recommend

KaelaAZ: This is all great! I'm glad I tapped in! Thank Bernard

CaroleMc: Bernard, what length of time do your students spend on their DST creations?

BernardR: I handle that a lot of different ways, some students take a 15 week course at the univ while others get a 2 or 3 day workshop

CaroleMc: In the latter strategy, how do you get them to come along prepared with a script?

BernardR: but the process is the same: select topic, write script, create or collect images, record narration, add transitions and effects and then add music at the end

BernardR: regarding the script, I sometimes email my workshop participants before we meet for the first time and ask them to watch some stories on my website and write a draft version of a script so they come with one in hand

BernardR: then we participate in story circles -where 3 or 4 participants sit around and discuss their scripts and ideas and get peer feedback. This works great and everyone benefits!

CaroleMc: yes, that is a great strategy - how do you get the 'shy' ones to 'tell' their stories?

BernardR: I went through the Center for Digital Storytelling training with Joe Lambert and he taught me how valuable the script writing and story circles are. The key to getting the shy people to open up is patience. Their stories are dying to get out but they do need to be coaxed out slowly.

CaroleMc nods and agrees

CaroleMc: Joe has been an inspiration to many across the world.

LeticiaP: where is this Center?

BernardR: The CDS is in Berkeley California

BJB2 . o O (I also learned DST from Joe...at the NGA workshop)

BernardR: CDS website: <http://www.storycenter.org/>

BJB2: that is one of the sites listed under featured items in this group room

BernardR: I know we only have a few minutes left but I want to get back to copyright briefly

BernardR: I have my students try to find someone to interview and also add their own personal slant to the story. This has worked very well and since the stories come from the student's own thoughts and are enhanced by the interview, it's all original work

CaroleMc applauds this strategy

BernardR: and then adding digital images they take with their cameras also makes the stories more personal and more compelling

BernardR: It's the music that creates the biggest problems but we can talk about that another time perhaps

CaroleMc agrees

BernardR: But I do think that as educators we should stand up for educational fair use

BJB2: fair use of music?

CaroleMc nods

BJB2: we do have only five minutes left. Does anyone want to know how to join this group so you will get emails from the discussion board?

BernardR: Music, TV clips, movie clips --all of it! If one of my students wants to create a digital story on the Jazz age, it's pretty hard for me to tell them they can't use a few seconds of real jazz music

BJB2 nods

LeticiaP: yes

BJB2: Leticia, do you see the screen that was above your chat before you detached?

LeticiaP: yes

BJB2: scroll down on the welcome note to the sentence This is the group room for the Art of Storytelling

BJB2: there is a green i next to the group name

BJB2: click on the green i

BJB2: you will then see the group ID page. At the top is a place to Join this group

BJB2: just click on join and you're joined!

CaroleMc: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vg0TpcH-Cys> is my short movie about attending the first digital storytelling conference in Cardiff, Wales 2003

BernardR: One more thing: Some of my students have done some great stories in PowerPoint. I know it's not as flashy as some programs but creative use of PP is really pretty remarkable.

BJB2: the group room will then be added to your pull down favorite places menu in the top right of your screen

LeticiaP: done, thank you so much. Thank you so much Bernard and Carole for the info tonight. It seems like something that I can learn to do with my students

CaroleMc smiles

BJB2 agrees about PPT. As long as the other scaffolding is in place and the PPT focus is on the story and not the features

BernardR: Here's one more link to a few of the most recent stories my students have created. More stories will be added soon:

BernardR: <http://www.coe.uh.edu/digitalstorytelling/2007/digital-story-examples.htm>

BJB2 agrees with Leticia too! Thanks for a wonderful discussion

CaroleMc: Thanks for your time and expertise today Bernard, I've learned a few things that I'm off to explore now

BJB2 hopes Bernard will be able to join us again next month

LeticiaP: yes please

BernardR: I really enjoyed it. Thanks everyone and please contact me by email if you have questions or want to discuss DS more.

BJB2: February 14! We can tell Valentine's Stories

BJB2: you can also post to the group discussion board if you have questions

CaroleMc: I will certainly keep in touch, and I'll be adding your URL to the DS Network. Bye for now.

LeticiaP: is that the next discussion?

BJB2 waves bye to Carole. Thanks

BernardR: I'm taking my wife out to dinner on Valentine's Day. Maybe another time?

BJB2: yes, Leticia.

BJB2 smiles...can't argue with that one, Bernard!

BJB2 . o O (just tell her to eat fast;-))

BernardR: Thanks again! Bye everyone.

BJB2 waves goodnight

CaroleMc: Okay, hope to see you here on Valentine's Day.

LeticiaP: bye