

Title of Session: Blogstreams Salon

Moderator: Bee Dieu

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Room: Blogstreams Salon Group

JaymaM: I am a teacher from Christopher IL, involved in the Capstones class. As part of an assignment we are to participate in a chat and reflect on it as another assignment

BeeD: We usually start our session by introducing ourselves and saying what we do and where we are from

LyleD: I am a tech director from the Dallas area and also in a class, but am interesting in blogging for myself and my district

BeeD: I have been teaching EFL (English as a Foreign Language) for more than 30 years and been involved in collaborative projects and new technologies since 1997

BeeD: I am from Sao Paulo, Brazil :-)

BeeD: How long have you been involved with blogs/or new technologies and what are your impressions?

BjB: I teach communication and am located in Pennsylvania

JaymaM: I am working on and learning how to incorporate more technology into my classroom

BeeD: what is Capstones class, Jayma?

LyleD: I have been reading blogs for a couple of years. I have been involved with new collaborative technologies the last year as I have seen them grow.

BeeD: and why are you interested in blogging Lyle?

LyleD: As a district leader, I see it as a way to increase communication within my district without the one-sided conversations that email tends to be :)

JaymaM: It is a class I am completing as part of a grant we received EETT.

BjB: o O (Lyle, you also might want to think about using Tapped In as a professional learning community for that purpose)

BeeD: EETT? sorry...these abbreviations are context related :-)

JaymaM: Education Through Technology

BeeD: thanks Jayma

BeeD: Who are the people you would like to establish communication with, Lyle and why do you think blogs are the best way to go about it?

JaymaM: Through this grant we received many technologies and are now trying to tie these in to our lessons.

BeeD: what is your subject and grade Jayma?

JaymaM: 5th grade - all subjects

BeeD: students are about 11/12? right?

JaymaM: Maybe I shouldn't be here, I'm not exactly sure what blogs are.

JaymaM: yes

BeeD: well..always good to learn what they are :-)

JaymaM: yes

LyleD: Teachers and other stakeholders (community members) It seems that blogs might be able to peel back some of the layers of communication that we often experience in a large district.

BeeD: Hello Rebecca, welcome

BeeD: Where are you from, what do you do, Rebecca and what brings you here?

BeeD: Lyle...how would you describe a blog and what are its benefits? I believe Jayma would like to know

LyleD: A blog is short hand for a web log- - a online diary of communication of regular communication of events, opinion, etc with a place for response

JaymaM: like AOL, instant messaging?

BeeD: here is an example - giving my own blog :-(
<http://beewebhead.net>

BeeD: no Jayma, it is asynchronous

LyleD: more permanent...with the hope of building community.

JaymaM: oh, ok

BjB: had a wonderful email from Jason Ohler about blogs...do you subscribe to his newsletter, Bee?

BeeD: do not think so Bj

BeeD: Tapped in is a wonderful place to build community

BeeD: Blogs may accomplish so...but are more individual I feel

LyleD: Bee what do you find yourself adding to your blog

BjB . o O (just forwarded Jason's newsletter to you, Bee)

BeeD: Thanks Bj

BeeD: Lyle...blogging is about having a voice and an identity online

BjB: Some worry about their blog traffic. I say don't worry- just be an anthropologist. Then no matter what happens, it is always interesting, always revealing about people and how they connect. What I love about blogging is that we reveal who we are in such fascinating ways.

BeeD: Some people target an audience and write for it

BjB: A blog can be anything from a debating venue to a newspaper to...you name it. They are incredibly flexible. For instance, my distance graduate education students create a blog as a portfolio- a blogfolio. The portfolio is their metaphor. They post media on YouTube and SlideShare, documents on Google Docs, and then link to these within their blogfolio reflections. I leave it up to them how much conversation they want on their portfolios.

BjB . o O (both paragraphs from Jason's newsletter)

BjB: <http://mat2007distance.blogspot.com/> is the location for his student blogs

BeeD: I use my blog basically to report on what is happening to me and around me, link to channels I trust or am interested in and keep in contact with people

BeeD: I have asked my students to blog so as to practice the language

BeeD: and reflect on their learning

BjB: what I especially like about blogs is that no one tool is all things to all people...you

can use a variety of tools in conjunction with and in addition to blogging

BeeD: and also to build a portfolio online

BeeD: yes..true BJ

LyleD: Do you find the language skills increase?

BeeD: I use blogs together with a number of other tools like Flickr, 43 Trio, delicious, community walk and you name it

BeeD: I have not done any research on it Lyle...but I have noticed that students who did blogging with me the first year are much more autonomous and write more easily than the ones who have not

BeeD: Here is my class blog <http://lycee.wordpress.com>

BeeD: The posts date back to 2007 because I am currently on a sabbatical

BeeD: If you click on classes

BeeD: you will find a link to pages with links to my students

BjB . o O (we have the honor of an international star and world wide traveler as our speaker, I hope you know!)

BjB shines the spotlight on Bee :-)

BeeD: Bj, do not exaggerate!

BjB smiles...and how many countries have you been in in the last three months?

BjB . o O (and on how many continents?)

BeeD: hmmm...ok

BjB rests her case

BeeD: I have the traveling bug

BjB . o O (nice bug to have :-))

BeeD: hehehe

LyleD: Bee do you find that your blog keeps you in contact with former students as they move on?

BeeD: Most of the contact I have kept with students was on facebook..they keep adding me

BeeD: my personal blog is mostly professional (and personal)

LyleD: Interesting :)

BeeD: and I have found that stds do not blog after they have quit school (at least on the same blogs they have opened while there)

BeeD: I teach stds at secondary school

LyleD: Secondary being ages 14-18?

BeeD: yes

BeeD: and some of them contact me on Facebook like 10 years later or more

BeeD: I started blogging in 2003 with my classes

BeeD: I have them all in my bloglines account

BeeD: but all blogs have been abandoned...they reflect a period in time

BeeD: I feel they are useful..just like wikis and micro-blogging

BeeD: to raise the awareness of students to this kind of collaboration

LyleD: Please define micro-blogging...a term I am not familiar with

BeeD: Twitter

BeeD: Jaiku

BeeD: Pownce

BeeD: <http://twitter.com/bdieu>

BeeD: they allow you to post constantly from your computer or mobile

BeeD: but not more than 140 words

LyleD: I understand and will look into...sounds interesting

BeeD: great tool to keep in touch with people

BeeD: When blogging, it is interesting to put teachers in contact with other teachers - and classes with other classes

BeeD: so together with friends we have started the dekita project

BeeD: <http://dekita.org>

BeeD: and <http://dekita.org/exchange>

BeeD: so that this search is facilitated

BeeD: Jayma, any questions?

JaymaM: no, I'm just checking out your links

BeeD: ok..there is also a lot of material in this room (recordings and links)

JaymaM: yes

BeeD: Lyle...do you have a blog?

LyleD: No...I am ready to start one though...it is time to start sharing

BeeD: Wonderful

LyleD: I always blame not finding enough time to post, but I can see the benefits!

BeeD: which platform are you thinking about?

LyleD: I have been investing wordpress.com

LyleD: sorry investigating

BeeD: I have switched from Blogger to Wordpress and thoroughly enjoy it

LyleD: Good to hear...seems to be a good platform

BeeD: what I like about it is that it has static pages where you can add your CV and publications

BeeD: it also has different options for privacy

LyleD: At work we use dotnukenet for website publishing and it has a built in blog module, not great but I think it will do the job

LyleD: for the role on the district site

BeeD: is it intranet or open to the world?

LyleD: Intranet right now.

BeeD: inside the walled garden then :-)

LyleD: Bee thank you for your insight and time this afternoon, I need to run...Very interesting to see and visit about your experiences!

BeeD: Thank you for coming Lyle and Jayma and nice meeting you

JaymaM: Thank you too!

BeeD: feel free to explore the Blogstreams Salon and send me a line if you need more help

JaymaM: I am interested to find out how many of my students know what a blog is and if any of them have one of their own.

JaymaM: Thanks again for the info

BeeD: if they do, ask them to teach you :-)

BjB chuckles

BeeD: it's loads of fun to be taught by students

JaymaM: I will!

BeeD: Have a great week and see you next month

BjB: Thanks a million, Bee!

JaymaM: Oh I know, they love it too!

BeeD hugs Bj

BeeD waves ciao