

Title of Session: Blogstreams

Moderator: Bee Dieu and Aaron Campbell

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Room: Blogstreams Salon Group

BeeD: We are about to start...I'd like to remind you to detach your window by clicking at the Action slide down menu on the right hand corner of your screen...you can also make the fonts bigger

BeeD: Before we start...it would be nice if people introduced themselves...let's do this now

AaronPC waves to all who are gathered here

GeorgiaJ: Hi, I teach High School French and Spanish in New Hampshire, USA

LorenaG: I am a first grade teacher from la Puente, CA

DanielC: Hi, My name is Dan Craig and I'm a student/instructor in Language Education in Indiana U.

LizaH: Hi. I am a 10th grade English teacher in La Puente, CA

BeeD: I am an EFL teacher at the secondary Franco-Brazilian school in Sao Paulo (Brazil)

AaronPC: I'm Aaron Campbell. I teach EFL to Japanese university student in Kyoto, Japan and work with American students at Friends World Program's East Asia Center.

TinaNB: My name is Tina and I taught 5th grade last year, but will be teaching 2nd grade next year. I am from Hacienda USD, CA

NicoleSte: Hi, I'm a library science graduate student at University of Missouri.

MaryFT: I teach educational technology at the University of Houston

RussellLK: I am a high school history teacher.

DavidWeGst7: I'm David Weksler. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City. I help people learn about Tapped In

KerenS: tech teacher on special assignment from Hacienda Hts, Cal.

EsperanzaC: Hi, I am a 5th grade teacher at Hacienda La Puente

GrahamS: Hi everyone! I'm Graham Stanley, a teacher of EFL based in Barcelona, Spain

Maggi: **Maggi** in Germany teaching Business English

BeeD: Cynthia?

BeeD: Shelley?

CynthiaSA: I'm a media specialist and an ESL teacher.

BeeD: Welcome Marsha...we are doing the introductions

ShelleyB: I'm in Hacienda Heights, California. I do professional development in technology for the Hacienda La Puente USD.

BeeD: So welcome all to the Blogstreams Salon group tonight

MarshaR: I teach staff development courses and am in a KS district

FernandaR: Fernanda in Portugal, EFL teacher in a secondary school

DavidWeGst7 . o O (nice international crowd, Bee. Well done)

BeeD: So for those of you who do not know the group

BeeD: there is a short introduction in the welcome area

LorenaG: I am ready to learn

BeeD: were any of you able to take some time to look around the room?

MaryFT: am checking it out now

RussellLK: Not yet.

NicoleSte: A little.

BeeD: if you've detached, you may need to attach to view the resources in the room

CynthiaSA: There is a lot of info in here!

BJB2 thinks using blogs to design digital stories with a group of international participants would be very cool, Mary

BeeD: Aaron and I opened the Blogstreams Salon after the Evonline 2005 workshop

MaryFT: very cool

BeeD: and we meet every Sunday at 21:00 GMT

GrahamS: great crossword!

BeeD: to talk about weblogs and webpublishing in education and EFL/ESL

BeeD: once a month

BeeD: we invite special guests

BeeD: experts in their area

BeeD: to share their wisdom and projects with us

BeeD: Bonsoir James

JamesSB: bonjour tous le monde!

FernandaR: bonjour!

BeeD: I have collected all the resources we pooled until now

JamesSB: sorry I missed the presentation

AaronPC smiles to James

BeeD: we have just started James

SusanR: bonjour

JamesSB: goody then I'm not too late?

BeeD: here in this room

SusanR: Comment ça va?

DavidWeGst7 . o O (late, but not "too late")

JamesSB smiles

BeeD: The Blogstreams Salon is a group room. If you would like to be able to use the resources in this room, you need to join the group. Today it is open house and the Festival is giving you a showcase view of some of the groups and what they do.

BeeD: Any questions you would like to ask?

LorenaG: I am reading some of the information from resources, very interesting

JamesSB: the dekita.org link doesn't want to work for me... is that normal?

BeeD: Yes...we have archived all the chats with experts and guest speakers

JuiChingP: Blog is a new thing to me. I'm wondering how to use it in a language classroom?

BeeD: Oh...then you must join our group Jui!

JuiChingP: ok

AaronPC: That's not normal James...try again.

BeeD: To join the group click on the SEARCH tab in the top right of your screen, and then click on the subtab GROUPS. Enter Blogstreams and press FIND IT! Click on the green i next to the group name. This will take you to the group ID page where you can JOIN THIS GROUP at the top of the page.

BeeD: but you can do this later..at your own pace

MarshaR: I think the xword is very cool and how the clues link to your resources...how did you do that?

BeeD: Before we do the quiz

AaronPC: Jui Ching...I think blogs are great for sharing thoughts and interacting with others in the second language.

BeeD: I would like Aaron to introduce you to the Dekita site....which was born out of the need of connecting students together through their blogs

AaronPC: Sure....Dekita.org was started by Rudolf Ammann, Bee, and I...

JuiChingP: u mean kind of sharing a journal with people

BeeD: <http://dekita.org>

AaronPC: and it arose out of our recognition of a growing need for a community centered around the work of students engaged in webpublishing in EFL/ESL.

BeeD: yes Jui...like a personal journal where learners record their reflections and thoughts

AaronPC: Our tagline reads 'P2P learning in EFL/ESL'.

JuiChingP: ok, sounds interesting

AaronPC: Peer-to-peer.

JamesSB: I see it now

AaronPC: Of course, such a community relies heavily on the support of educators and others who appreciate the value of P2P learning and want to see students use it to its fullest potential.

BeeD: which is more or less like sharing files and music

JuiChingP: do teachers need to evaluate the blogs?

BeeD: but instead we share knowledge...resources and engage in conversation

AaronPC: It is obvious, then, that Dekita has a close relationship with the community of practice that grew out of the EVO session on the use of blogs in EFL/ESL

BeeD: each teacher will gradually develop its own strategies

AaronPC: and the weekly Blogstream chats where some of those members, and many others, meet.

BeeD: different platforms working in tandem

AaronPC: Jui Ching...evaluation is important in using weblogs...especially reflective forms of evaluation.

BeeD: catering for specific needs

AaronPC: In essence...P2P learning is free, direct, and open communication and sharing.

JuiChingP: so it's kind of like electronic journals, and teachers will evaluate them as ordinary journals?

AaronPC: Well...that might be one approach. I prefer to have students engage in reflective self evaluation of the learning process using blogs and other tools.

JuiChingP: ok, I see. thanks.

AaronPC: It helps to give them a process orientation, rather than a 'final product' oriented view.

ElizabethH: Hugs to all--how about reflective self-eval instead of a quiz?

BeeD: I also tend to use peer and self evaluation

AaronPC: As P2P learning is a conversation in progress...this is important....not the end result.

JuiChingP: sound like students would gain a lot during the process.

BeeD: and the students enjoy looking back at their posts and checking their progress

ElizabethH: Do you find that students are very perfunctory in their self-evaluation? Or do you train them a little first?

AaronPC: Well...I have them self evaluate at several intervals during the semester...

BeeD: well...they need to be trained ...given the rubrics before they start

MarshaR: When they look at their posts and they wish to amend something...do they make a new post or do they edit the old one? I know there's some discussion around this

AaronPC: so they get better at it with the more feedback I give them on it.

BeeD: I usually do not correct post after post

AaronPC: It helps them gain insight into what they are doing and why they are doing it.

BeeD: but at the end of two months

ElizabethH: Maybe Marsha you mean self-correction?

AaronPC: Good tools for P2P learning are those that allow learners to share ideas in different formats...

MarshaR: humm...don't know if I mean self-correction. What if they've learned more and now need to add onto their original knowledge

AaronPC: text...audio...video...photos, etc.

AaronPC: ...while putting them in touch with others who share similar interests.

BeeD: Our students have recently participated in a great exchange on Flickr for instance

AaronPC: At Dekita.org, we've been encouraging the use of Flickr, which students really enjoy.

AaronPC: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/dekita/>

RussellLK: what is Filckr?

JuiChingP: I have the same question.

MarshaR: I'm just amazed at the rotating header using Flickr.

BeeD: Well Aaron...I think it is time for people to work a bit, don't you think so?

MarshaR: It's stunning.

AaronPC: Flickr is a social photo sharing application.

AaronPC: Yes Bee...good idea

CandaceP: Hello everyone. I sure wanted to get here earlier. Flickr sounds very interesting.

BeeD: We would like you to discover some of the resources we have been using at your own pace...and then come back here to ask us questions

LorenaG: great idea

JamesSB smiles but thinks it's almost time to go to bed...

MarshaR: Do you know if TypePad supports this Rotator

BeeD: So...giving you about 10 minutes for the quiz...
<http://www.beewebhead.net/blogstreams/tappedin.htm>

ElizabethH: Flickr also has a nice mini-appl you can put on your Webpage that flips through your photo gallery in miniature.

JeffCoo: Is it going to be on Quizstar?

BeeD: and feel free to ask us any questions you may have in the meantime

KerenS: Will we find what TypePad and Rotator are in the resources?

AaronPC: Links to my students work can be found in the right sidebar of The New Tanuki: <http://thenewtanuki.blogspot.com/>

AaronPC: Bee's students are at: <http://beewebhead.blogspot.com/>

ElizabethH: that's a really great site, Aaron--I've been telling everyone about it.

BeeD: The quiz was made on Hot Potatoes

AaronPC: Thanks Elizabeth.

BeeD: correction Aaron: my students are on <http://beeonline2.blogspot.com>

KeikoSc: Oh, blogspot.com is where I keep my fitness diary, too.

KeikoSc: It takes unicode in case you didn't know.

AaronPC: You can also find links to other class projects at: <http://del.icio.us/dekita>

CandaceP: I'm very impressed with the crossword puzzle quiz. However, I'm afraid I would fail it!!! I came late to this session!!! Are there places for me to find the answers!

AaronPC: Sorry Bee!

BeeD: Candace..there are links to help you

BeeD: and other people you can ask

BeeD: so just go ahead

BeeD: nothing to be afraid of...quite straightforward really

CandaceP: Thanks. I need all the help I can get. (smiling)

BeeD: that's what we are all here for

BeeD: share our knowledge and resources

BeeD: <http://www.beewebhead.net/blogstreams/tappedin.htm>

AaronPC: Yes...please ask any questions you might have.

AaronPC: Also, feel free to comment on student sites in the links above....

BeeD: click on the control key as you click on the link

AaronPC: I know they would be excited to hear from you.

BeeD: My students would love to find comments on their posts when they come back from the holidays end of July

CandaceP: I will certainly enjoy looking at these. Thanks

AaronPC: One of our goals at Dekita.org is bring a vibrant community of student/educator webpublishers into being...

AaronPC: so that teachers interested in having their students participate...

AaronPC: can induct their students into a supportive P2P community right away.

JamesSB looks at the time and decides it's time for bed... waves goodbye to everyone...

BeeD waves bye to James

AaronPC: This will help connect learners in different countries in a way that is meaningful to each student, as he/she writes about his/her interests.

BeeD: merci d'etre venu

JamesSB: goodnight all... thank you Bee and Aaron... I like the crossword puzzle

AaronPC: bye James!

FernandaR: Bye!

Maggi waves bye

JamesSB begins to nod and fall asleep on the keyboard... shrugs and heads off towards bed

ElizabethH: The Xword is like a Webquest--nice job all!

BeeD: More like a treasure hunt I would say

ElizabethH: Isn't that what a WebQuest is, though?

CynthiaSA: Lots of treasure to be found in the hunt.

ElizabethH: You guys have some real treasure, I'd say.

BeeD: not exactly Elizabeth

KerenS: Aaron and Bee, could you talk a little about the advantages of a blog over, say a discussion board? I think I'm beginning to see, after looking at some of these sites, still, I'd like to hear you talk a little about that?

BeeD laughs the eternal question that comes back

BeeD: Yes Keren

AaronPC lol good question Keren!

BeeD: a weblog is a personal endeavour under the control of the student

BeeD: it's a learner's personal identity, web presence

KerenS: ...I gather I'm not the first to bring it up?

AaronPC: Discussion board = centralization, top down structure

AaronPC: blogs = decentralization, student centered control.

ElizabethH: I think students may also feel free to write at greater length and in more depth than in a response to someone else's e-mail?

AaronPC: Blogs are under the control and direction of the learner.

EsperanzaC: thank you for clarifying that

BeeD: and this makes the whole difference

BeeD: they can personalize them

BeeD: add their own links

AaronPC: This is why some students really love them, because they are the ones in control.....that is....as long as educators are willing to allow that.

GeorgiaJ: I don't think this has been answered.....but, can a teacher keep a blog from being available to the entire world on the web?

BeeD: what is on the web is available Georgia

KerenS: ...so where the discussion board is directed by the teacher and is a series of responses, there's much more of an whole environment

KerenS: that the student is in control of

BeeD: yes...no student identity

DanielC: Do any of you have privacy issues at your school? Many schools won't allow teachers to require students to publish web pages. How would you address this when it comes to blogging?

GeorgiaJ: Yes, I understand that, but doesn't that bring up possible problems?

LeeB waves hello

AaronPC: yes...a teacher can...but then that destroys the P2P nature of the medium.

BeeD: There are now learning environments that are emerging

GeorgiaJ: Right, Daniel, my thoughts also.

Maggi waves to Lee

BeeD: and that combine levels of privacy...like in Flickr

LeeB: I may have that problem

DanielC: So, Bee, something password protected

BeeD: and allow for social networking

AaronPC: We encourage use of pseudonyms and to not talk about private and personal information in their publishing activities....unless they really want to.

AaronPC: We make clear the public nature of the task.

GeorgiaJ: Aaron, do you as a teacher, then, use the blog in any way...as an assessment?

AaronPC: I give my students the option of not having a their work public.....

BeeD: and discourage them from posting their pics to the public...just use them on a family/friends level of privacy

AaronPC: nobody has yet chosen that option.

BeeD: They like being read

BeeD: and commented upon

AaronPC: Yes...I track all activity closely and give feedback religiously.

GeorgiaJ: So, what levels or ages of students do you both work with?

AaronPC: The evaluation process is an ongoing negotiation/conversation all semester.

BeeD: I teach at high school

AaronPC: My students are intermediate.

KerenS: Aaron, can you say more about the feedback?

DanielC: Yes, Bee. I think that is a great creative outlet

BeeD: I think there is a lot to be done

LizaH: Tracking activity may be quite difficult if you have 100+ students, wouldn't you think?

DanielC: I encourage my in-service students to find a way to make it happen

AaronPC: Yes...feedback is given in class...both informally through short f2f discussion...

AaronPC: and formally though written evaluation, twice during the semester, and once at the end....usually.

BeeD: If you have a look at the interaction that went on in the Flickr Dekita group

KerenS: thanks Aaron, and the feed back is on....? content? ...?

AaronPC: Students like this because it encourages them to take more control over the direction of how they are evaluated and the reflective nature of it helps them to gain insight into the learning process.

BeeD: you will find out that students are motivated to ask, communicate and interact in the target language

DanielC: Yep, I'm checking that out now Bee, looks great

AaronPC: Feedback is on content, what is being learned, the joy or lack of it that is present, what does the student want to do next? that kind of thing.

CandaceP: Thank you Bee. There is so much valuable information here and I really took some time looking at your dekita site. Thanks for everything.

AaronPC: I always try to give suggestions on how to improve their approach so that they are happy with what they are doing and are learning something they deem to be of value to them.

BeeD: If you are interested in P2P

BeeD: and doing this kind of work with your students

GeorgiaJ: Aaron, so, then, do you sometimes pose a question they should respond to?

BeeD: join the Dekita mailing list

AaronPC: Yes...that's an important part of stimulating the critical faculties of each student.

BeeD: <http://lists.dekita.org/mailman/listinfo/group>

CandaceP: Yes, I probably will join the mailing group.

FernandaR: It's late here, I have to go to sleep, see you...

AaronPC: I try getting them to take critical approaches to what they are doing.

BeeD: and come to our Blogstreams sessions on Sunday to exchange ideas

ClaireB: boa noite fernanda

CandaceP: I must go now. Bye everyone.

ClaireB: what time is blogstreams on Sunday?

FernandaR: boa noite, Claire!

BeeD: at 21:00 GMT

AaronPC: building on previous ideas, comparing, contrasting, correcting, deconstructing, etc.

BeeD: creating

KerenS: Aaron, .. is there an example blog where we could see this? to see what it looks like

ElizabethH: Goodbye all-I am hoping to see the transcript of this one in full--sorry I missed the first part!

