**Title of Session:** Mr. Collaboration - Tom March
**Moderator:** Jeff Cooper
**Title of File:** 2005festMrCMarch
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Room: Jeff Cooper's Office

**JeffC**: Tom March joins us from the land down under (which I always thought should be Antarctica... not Australia), was the creator of Filamentality, hosts a Best Webquest site, and has quite a few resources to share regarding best use of the Internet. Hopefully he will be back in a minute to lead this session!

**ShelleyB**: This sounds like a great session.

**TomMarch** joined the room.

**JeffC** waves to Tom.

**BJ** cheers

**ButhainaA**: Hi Tom

**TomMarch**: Sorry - browser crash - I'm fresh now - hi everyone!

**JeffC**: We can start with brief introductions... then... Tom... take it away!

**JeffC**: I'm Jeff Cooper, Education Technology Consultant from Oregon, and Tapped In Helpdesk.

**ButhainaA** waves and smiles to Susan

**ShelleyB**: I'm from Hacienda Heights, California. I do professional development in technology for a school district.

**ShelleyB** waves to everyone

**CynthiaSA**: Cynthia Alvarado, media specialist, ESL teacher and university instructor, Michigan

**TomMarch**: I'm Tom March and I've been "working the Web for education" for about 10 years now. Thanks for coming. I live in a small town in Australia about an hour from Sydney.

**ButhainaA** listening to Tom

**TomMarch** shuffles papers

**TomMarch** clears throat

**ButhainaA** smiles

**TomMarch**: So shall we get started?

**ChristinaT**: I'm Christina Tsai from Taipei, Taiwan, a college teacher in the pre-service program.

**SusanR**: Sue from Ottawa Ontario

**ButhainaA**: I'm Buthaina, a EFL/ESP instructor and a Webhead in Action from Kuwait

**ButhainaA**: you can call me Buth as well

**TomMarch**: What I'd like us to discuss this hour are strategies to get all our colleagues onboard, helping to engage All students in learning with a New 3Rs - experiences that are Rich, Real & Relevant.

**ChristinaT** listens attentively.

**TomMarch**: How about quick feedback - estimate the percentage of your colleagues that regularly use the Web in ways that engage these new 3Rs.

**CynthiaSA**: 20%

**TomMarch** thanks Cynthia

**ButhainaA**: 10%-20%

**ShelleyB**: Probably 10-20%

**TomMarch** thanks Buth

**ButhainaA** nods to Tom

**TomMarch**: Are we seeing a pattern?

**ButhainaA**: trying

**TomMarch**: Is anyone out there getting ready to type 90% or shall we assume we could do better in this area?

**TomMarch** pauses to see if there are any objections to carrying on.

**ButhainaA**: Please go ahead

**TomMarch**: Okay. So how about some strategies that all teachers can begin with...

**ChristinaT** agrees with Tom that this area could be extended more with focusing on specified fields for individual teachers.

**ButhainaA**: sounds good here

**TomMarch**: I'm working today from an initiative I've started this year called "The Drive for 2005" - http://drivefor2005.org

**TomMarch**: I won't project this as I've heard it might bump some of you off. So it you like open another browser window and check out the site.

**TomMarch**: There is a set of steps. We start at the first step. All teachers can easily add a hotlist of Web resources to what they are already doing.

**TomMarch**: Click on the text "Easy Hotlists for Richer Resources"

**ButhainaA**: Opened here without any trouble, Tom..Great project/blog

**TomMarch**: here's an example hotlist cited:
http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/pages/scrapcorindaea.html

**TomMarch**: and another: http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/pages/listfairytash.html

**TomMarch**: and another: http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/pages/listalternatlm.html

**TomMarch**: these all comes from Filamentality - a site we made starting in 1996 - educators use it (about 7000 / month) to create Web-based activities.

**TomMarch**: When we look for links on core curriculum type subjects - always look here first

**TomMarch**: Where is here? That's a little trickier - the easiest is my main page: ozline.com - http://ozline.com

**TomMarch**: It's at the bottom of the page - enter text and hit return.

**CarolF** waves back

**TomMarch**: You can also try the input field on that Drive for 2005 panel. The home site for Filamentality is : http://www.kn.sbc.com/wired/fil

**TomMarch**: So if teachers who are in the 80% of non-regular integrators of the Web can add links this easily, I say they should because at the least it gives permission to students to enrich their learning and saves time doing a lot of searching themselves.  Questions or comments?

**ButhainaA**: I did and got this result, Tom: < http://www.kn.sbc.com/s97is.vts >

**TomMarch**: That's the URL at the top of the page - click on one of the titles listed (what were you searching for?)

**ButhainaA**: oops, just ignore, please. I got the right one now. thanks

**JeffC**: http://www.kn.sbc.com/wired/fil/ is the Filamentality homepage... you can then search for just about any lesson you like.

**TomMarch**: This said, realize that you are the quality control factor - the software is simply pulling up what's on the server

**SusanR**: I used Filamentality for my Face to Face online Prof development

**SusanR**: http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/pages/listkindersu.html

**SusanR**: then converted it to online PD

**TomMarch**: Excellent, Sue

**ButhainaA**: I use, Hotlist for my Sophomores required to write and present a term paper

**TomMarch**: So this is just the start - everybody happy with this?

**ShelleyB**: Yes!

**ButhainaA**: Yep

**CynthiaSA**: yes

**TomMarch**: Okay, so let's gently nudge our colleagues to join us and this is an easy first step.

**SusanR**: and this one http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/pages/listwebtoolsu.html

**SusanR** listens

**TomMarch**: You can see a number of steps up from Hotlists.

**TomMarch** terrific hotlists, Sue.  everybody, make sure you check these out.

**ShelleyB**: Absolutely

**ButhainaA**: Just, did; they are indeed, thanks, Susan

**TomMarch**: Because our time is limited, I will focus on two other things - if interested you can view the rest later on your own.

**TomMarch**: Another approach that I think EVERY educator could (should? - yes, I'm getting bossy in my old age) do is one I call the Class Act site.

**CarolF** trying to follow you.  Keep talking

**TomMarch**: Here's my reference point for "Class Act" sites: http://www.geocities.com/cslnews/

**TomMarch**: Notice it's a geocities site - nothing fancy here.

**TomMarch**: If you Googled "child slave labor" right now, you'd see that this is the first, I'm feeling lucky, result.

**TomMarch**: It's made by 11th grade students in New Jersey and has been online for ages.

**CarolF**: Got to go soon.  Thank you in advance.

**JeffC**: Stay logged in Carol... you'll get a full transcript of this session that way.

**ButhainaA**: Wow, great articles, Tom; one of the topic is needed here and so hot at the moment...thanks again

**TomMarch**: This teacher has her students research and write about instances of Child Slave Labor around the world.  The project is ongoing, ticking along in the background of the class.  Students contribute and at the end of the year, the site is passed on to the new 11th graders.

**ButhainaA**: interesting...and very inspiring

**TomMarch**: I see this at the far end of the continuum in terms of contribution and service - I've always like Al Rogers statement that students should "serve the Net," not just "Surf the Net."

**ButhainaA**: I agree

**SusanR**: good point, Tom

**TomMarch**: In the middle of the continuum, students can create an online community. Here's one we started at our school: http://bernardoniweb.com/

**ChristinaT**: Good vision!

**TomMarch**: A family friend serves in the military and was sent to Iraq last December. To support him, we decided to create a Blog. Our students share their world (2 room school house in Aussie) with Kolin in Iraq and his family in Atlanta.

**TomMarch**: Here's a cool, simple example that's popped up: our school is bulging at 48 K-6 students. Kolin's children in GA go to a K-1 school of 2000 students!

**TomMarch**: So this kind of Class Act site simply connects students to the world and creates a bit of community.

**TomMarch**: To learn more, go to ClassActPortal.com: http://classactportal.com/

**ButhainaA**: An interesting blog, Tom, will try to pass it to other primary teachers here

**TomMarch**: On the left hand side of the site just listed, look for the "Idea Pools"

**TomMarch**: This is just a bit of brainstorming on the kinds of topics teachers might be interested in creating.

**JeffC**: I want to jump in with a site that may interest: http://www.nabuur.com ...educators and students may join, and become involved with impoverished international villages... everything from fundraising, to sending books, to online mentoring. Currently... there isn't anything in Iraq... but that could/should change soon.

**TomMarch**: Question & comments?

**TomMarch**: If I can also put in a plug - take a look at: http://achancetohelp.org

**ButhainaA**: Is that like to contribute ideas for teachers only, Tom?

**ButhainaA**: Thanks, Jeff

**TomMarch**: (Jeff, thanks for the pointer - this look great)

**JeffC**: Another site: http://www.takingitglobal.org ... *student created and run*.

**JeffC**: To bring the number of 10-20% up to 80-90% of actively engaged students... with relevancy the key... these sites allow students to become actively involved in learning about, helping, and collaborating with students internationally. Much better than just reading about other places in books or online.

**TomMarch**: The ideas are there to create sparks.  I think the most important point is that the teacher is passionate / intrigued by the topic.  Part of the benefit of a Class Act site is an infectious joy of learning.  I would choose something the students were very interested in as well.

**DavidWe** agrees with that

**TomMarch**: Excellent point, Jeff. Yes!

**BJ** wonders if Tom is aware of the Blanket the World With Peace project?

**JeffC**: And by students... I mean teachers too! (maybe someday administrators... who knows?)

**TomMarch**: Tell me more - "It's all good!"

**ButhainaA** strongly agrees

**BJ** . o O ( we'd like to have the project be a 'clearing house' for conflict resolution sights )

**ButhainaA** smiles to Jeff

**BJ**: http://www.cedarnet.org/emig/peace/

**TomMarch**: When we finish if any of you have good URLs along these lines, please post them so we get them on the transcript.  I will add them to ClassActPortal.com

**BJ**: there is a Peace Blanket group in Tapped In

**ButhainaA**: Wow, wonderful, BJ; how can one participate

**BJ**: Join the group, Buth

**BJ**: there are instructions in the group room

**SusanR** . o O ( wonders if Tom is aware of Craig Keilburger )

**ButhainaA**: oh, ok, thanks, BJ

**SusanR**: founder of Free the Children

**TomMarch**: I'll Google him

**SusanR**: http://www.peaceheroes.com/CraigKielburger/craigkielburger.htm

**TomMarch**: Terrific!

**SusanR**: an inspiration for caring and sharing

**TomMarch**: Yes.

**ButhainaA**: And, the Mentor/Tutor project, Tom

**TomMarch**: See, I'm getting all the goodies, today!

**TomMarch**: Do you want to take a quick look at one WebQuest?

**JeffC** reminds people that there is 10 minutes left in this session... I'm happy to continue hosting it here for as long as people like... I think this discussion merits it.

**MarleighG**: Yes!

**DavidWe** smiles

**JeffC**: ... and Tom hasn't had a chance to talk about Best Webquests yet!

**TomMarch**: For the last big WebQuest I did that bears as many hallmarks of a Best WebQuest as I could muster, take a look at: http://www.web-and-flow.com/members/tmarch/freedom2/webquest.htm

**TomMarch**: I made this in our Web-and-Flow, but the main things I want to show are...

**TomMarch**: 1) choose a compelling topic - they don't come much more than this, do they?  The point is, I think fewer, deeper WebQuests are better.  They become thematic reference points for many topics studied in a course.

**TomMarch**: 2) Our purpose is to create a very rich "gray area" (pun regarding brain matter intended).  Notice the "Roles" or Perspectives"

**TomMarch**: I wanted to challenge the stereotype (that the header graphic tried to firmly establish) that this is an us and them issue.

**TomMarch**: So we get Nelson Mandela, the OK bombing, Eco terrorists, etc. to broaden the students' exploration (this is the "Rich" part of the New 3Rs).

**TomMarch**: Lastly, click on this link to download a Word doc.  Once you do, scroll right down and you'll come to a graphic of a continuum from Terrorist to Freedom Fighter: http://bestwebquests.com/members/tmarch/terrorism_group.doc

**JeffC** wonders how many districts would consider covering Terrorism in curriculum would be too controversial... no matter how relevant?

**SusanR** . o O ( reality schooling )

**TomMarch**: Now there's an interesting statement, huh?

**JeffC** enjoys asking tough questions.

**ButhainaA**: it's a matter of how many countries, now, Jeff, not districts

**JeffC** nods to Buthaina.

**TomMarch**: So #3 is the scaffolding that makes the simple dragging of icons over a graphic in a Word doc a powerful mechanism for deep discussion.

**JeffC**: Here we have something that inundates us in the news... and I seriously doubt that much is being covered in any country, in any curriculum.

**TomMarch**: I think I made it to the finish line, so I'm happy to let this last digest and take a few questions?

**JeffC**: Do you want to continue Tom? It's up to you.

**MarleighG**: Thanks so much!

**TomMarch**: The good thing about a WebQuest is we try to present all perspectives. Our job is to help students find their own way to an informed construction of new meaning. I like being in that role.

**ButhainaA**: it's very impressive and eye opening for me about what educators are doing regarding this topic in other parts of the world..It's also very inspiring and encouraging for teachers like me to start serious online discussions with students here in Kuwait University..Thanks Tom

**SusanR**: Thank you, Tom. This session was inspirational.

**TomMarch**: I've really enjoyed this, but I think I'll wrap up now. I have to get to my son's school where we are fund raising for refugee students in South Africa

**JeffC**: Thank you very much Tom!

**DavidWe**: Good luck, Tom. Thanks for your presentation

**JeffC**: As Tom noted earlier... if people would like to put up some URLs... now would be a good time.

**ButhainaA**: Are you familiar with the SANTEC group in S.Africa, Tom?

**JeffC**: Tom... stay logged in if you want additional URLs.

**TomMarch**: If you are interested, please go to http://ozline.com and add your email to the Updates list.  this is where I announce new things and interesting bits.

**ButhainaA**: Here is a link to the Mentor/tutor site: < http://www.tutormentorexchange.net/ >

**TomMarch**: Please post a URL, Buth for SANTEC - I work with the Cape Town Refugee Centre

**JeffC**: I wanted to let people know that I am offering up to five free hours of online professional development... starting my own consultancy at http://snurl.com/consultancy

**DavidWe** likes Jeff's new consultancy web site

**ButhainaA**: Thanks, Jeff for letting us know

**JeffC**: Another site for international collaboration is http://www.epals.com ...teachers create student accounts, and find epals around the world to correspond with.  It's the safest email for students... since *no mail can reach them from outside of epals*.

**DavidWe** wonders what Tom was doing before 1995 and "working the Web for Education"

**JeffC** guesses that he invented the Internet with Al Gore!

**ButhainaA**: heheheh..very funny, Jeff, like your humor

**DavidWe**: Wow, the Internet AND Al Gore

**TomMarch**: I taught at Poway High School in San Diego - I got the fellowship at SDSU in 95

**JeffC**: Hey... you have to have humor if you want to teach.

**SusanR**: I dig your site, Jeff

**JeffC** wonders how David has made it this far without a sense of humor.

**JeffC**: Thanks Susan!

**ButhainaA** agrees with Jeff; humor does miracles in a class

**TomMarch**: And you can all be the first to know - I've just submitted an application for a position as Assistant Principal.  I want to help a school grow.

**DavidWe**: Good luck, Tom

**SusanR**: Hey, I was once considered a very funny teacher

**ButhainaA**: Good, for you Tom, wish you good luck

**TomMarch**: The kids said I was funny too, but I reckon looks aren't everything....

**TomMarch**: See you all