

Title of Session: Targeting Librarians - Teaching Teachers Tech
Moderator: Lesley Farmer
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LesleyF: Greetings, folks! Here for the discussion about librarians teaching teachers technology?

LesleyF: Say that 3 times fast?

BethOl: Yes, yes, yes

MarcGst2: Yep

LesleyF: While we wait for a couple of other folks to arrive, let's introduce ourselves. I teach school librarianship at California St. University Long Beach.

BJB2: Welcome to today's Targeting Librarians!

MarcGst2: I'm an LMT at Northridge Academy H.S.

LesleyF: Hi, Marc!

BethOl: Hi, Lesley we met at CSLA. I'm Beth Olshewsky; I'm the new District Librarian at San Marino Unified, as of last Monday.

LesleyF: Marc is modest -- he's been teaching library technology at my university.

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer

MarcGst2 smiles

BJB2: cool, Marc

LesleyF: Good to "see" you, Beth.

BJB2 hopes Marc gets a Tapped In membership

BJB2 . o O (then he'll get a transcript of the events he participates in)

MarcGst2: Probably will....

LesleyF: So what are you hoping to get out of this session, folks?

BethOI: Please note, District Librarian here really means that we have no individual site librarians. I have techs at my four schools, and I'm floating to serve all.

LesleyF: K-8?

BethOI: Two elementaries, 1 MS, 1 HS

LesleyF: hope you like variety

BethOI: I love variety; but it's hard to make enough impact stretched thin.

LesleyF: so what have been your experiences in teaching teachers about tech, and its incorporation into the curriculum, folks?

LesleyF: and, Beth, how does that stretching impact your training?

BJB2: Matt just posted this concern in reception, Lesley...

BJB2: I want to know why the idea of librarians teaching teachers that tech side of things has fallen upon them. Shouldn't L.M.T.s be first and foremost there for students. Aren't teachers responsible for their own professional development when it comes to improving computer skills. Is my question shortsighted? Is it related to the type of tech librarians attempt to teach?

BethOI: So far, working on webquests with teachers; and webliographies. Pretty limited during my library fieldwork last summer.

LesleyF: So, Matthew brings up an interesting point -- do you think that LMTs SHOULD be training teachers in technology? Would do you see as a benefit?

BethOI: I'm hoping to get some SmartBoards in the district. Ideally, one at each library. I went to a SmartBoards workshop at Marlborough School. They really encourage collaboration.

LesleyF: so teachers should be trained in using SmartBoards if they want to show students resources -- or incorporate digital instruction with their students...

BethOI: Yes, Of course we need to teach teachers about technology. It only takes exposure to begin to see how it can enrich... and I think it's an equity issue. Otherwise, only a few students with tech savvy and interested teachers will get the intros they need to engage successfully in the future.

MarcGst2: I see the LMT as an information specialist---this includes tech. knowledge

BJB2: is there a conflict between LMT and Tech Coordinator?

MarcGst2: My teachers come to me all the time for assistance. This helps build relationships.

LesleyF: If LMTs are trying to push collaboration, and if they want the students to be able to use it, then I would think that LMTs would want teachers in the loop if for no other reason than to save teachers looking dumb in front of the students.

MarcGst2: Not many schools are lucky enough to have a certificated tech coordinator

LesleyF: good question, BJ. How do you think the LMT and tech coordinator should set up their roles?

BethOI: The SmartBoards are a wonderful presentation aid true. But, I think they're even more valuable in facilitating student use and collaboration.

MarcGst2: Having a TEACHER (i.e. LMT) who understands technology is important.

BJB2 looks to Heather to answer that question

LesleyF: also true, Marc -- especially tech specialists with teaching background.

LesleyF: so could you say that the LMT is more curriculum-focused, and the tech specialist is more material resources based?

BethOI: I've been working with our individual site computer teachers to introduce the idea of collaboration with me and with the classroom teachers. It's something they've never considered. They see the library to this point as print only resources.

HeatherBu: I'm afraid I have no answers at this point...LMT is scared of tech, and Tech Dir doesn't have time to work with LMT

MarcGst2: Yes. Maybe start with technology we can all agree on? As a start, does anyone disagree that LMTs should be teaching things like search engine strategies, accessing electronic databases, etc.

HeatherBu . o O (no disagreement here.)

LesleyF: so in your case, Heather, the LMT would need tech training before "converting" others...

BethOI: The computer teachers are very isolated skills focused so far, and I agree that the LMT brings curriculum integration to the table.

LesleyF: good entry point, Marc.

HeatherBu: Yes, Lesley, but she has no desire to receive it. She wants the tech out of "her library."

LesleyF: LMTs are good at locating/evaluating info -- regardless of format.

BethOI: and integrating what different formats have to offer!

BethOI: Also, sometimes looking at what format is best to use for a specific purpose.

LesleyF: right, Beth. Hmm -- I wonder what the expectations of tech are in YOUR school, Heather...

HeatherBu hates to admit that she is teaching Tech in 7th & 8th grade on Win 98 boxes, with 32 MB RAM

HeatherBu: It hasn't been a really high priority, but I intend to change that.

LesleyF: so, since the idea in this session is training teachers -- and it could include other LMTs -- about tech, we also need to know where the folks are in terms of their skills, attitudes, and use of tech in support of students' education.

HeatherBu grins

BethOI: It really depends campus to campus. But, I have HS students with no clue about best use of search engines not to mention database use. Of which, there's only been one (ABC-Clio) underused one in the district to this point.

LesleyF: so how do you assess people's tech level?

LesleyF: sounds like Beth uses OBSERVATION...

MarcGst2: self-assessments are a good start, such as the CTC assessment

BethOI: Yes, observation, listening, seeing where I can help a bit. Also, I think it doesn't hurt to ask as we are working with a class and then cover basics (quickly or more slowly) depending on responses and observation in action.

LesleyF: right, Marc. I should note that there are standards out there as to the levels that educators should attain. I'm at the point now were I can share some websites. OK?

LesleyF: note, too, that self-assessment can be misleading....

MatthewGst3: I'm experiencing "Future Shock." Too much information. I can't help but see LMTs spending summers ensconced in tutorials and trade mags in trying to keep up with ever-changing aspects in tech. sources. Will books even be in libraries in the not too distant future?

BethOI: Yes, that's why I say observe even after you ask. Most will say they know all about using search engines.

MarcGst2: True, also sometimes you don't know what you don't know

LesleyF: I think most people self-pace themselves in terms of professional devt., Matthew. Some people are still blown away with PowerPoint...

BethOI: Of course we'll have books. Books have great purpose, computers have great purpose, other media and uses that aren't even introduced yet have great purpose. We teach to approach new media with confidence explore and assess- for teachers and students for future use.

LesleyF: and I DO predict books will be in libraries for quite some time...

MatthewGst3: Guilty as charged!

BethOI: How about those websites Lesley?

LesleyF: SO let's go forth. A good site to start with, as a review, is ISTE's -- Intl. Society for Tech in Ed.

LesleyF: Ready to take a look? Click on <http://www.iste.org/teachers/>

LesleyF: you'll see standards, ideas, assessments, etc.

LesleyF: BJ, want to guide people with the windows bit when looking at websites?

HeatherBu: Lesley? I'm getting a "Page cannot be Found" error.

BethOI: I've seen some of ISTE's paper pubs and hear they have great conferences also.

BJB2: before you click on the URL hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard or turn off popups

BJB2: <http://www.iste.org/teachers/>

DavidWe nods

BJB2 . o O (I'm also getting page not found)

DavidWe: Me, too - page not found

BJB2 . o O (is this an LMT trick?)

LesleyF: try this http://cnets.iste.org/teachers/t_stands.html

DavidWe: Is it a link off the main web page - <http://www.iste.org>

BethOI: Now we're good

LesleyF: sigh -- the first URL worked this morning...

DavidWe agrees that works better

RichardKM: I got Educational Technology Standards

RichardKM: and Performance Indicators

RichardKM: for All Teachers

LesleyF: look at some of the resources too

LesleyF: what's really scary is to look at the STUDENT tech standards -- 2nd grade benchmarks. I read that to our college education faculty, and they blanched.

HeatherBu nods in agreement with Lesley

DavidWe tends to think that is C***Y

LesleyF: cutey?

DavidWe . o O (cr**y)

RichardKM: why? what part?

DavidWe: Having benchmarks for 2nd graders

DavidWe: I'm not a classroom teacher, but...

HeatherBu: David, right now we live and die by benchmarks, sad to say.

RichardKM: the language is educationese but the principles are valid...

LesleyF: it does push the envelope a bit ==-- although those same little fingers are already playing video games.

BJB2: David, have you seen the benchmarks for 2nd grade?

DavidWe stabs himself in the heart to get it over quick

MatthewGst3: ...I play one on TV.

DavidWe: No, BJ, I've not seen them

LesleyF: I WILL say that I'd prefer them coloring with real crayons than dumping digital paints...

DavidWe grins at Matthew

BJB2 . o O (my 4 year old grandson uses email and knows how to turn on the computer and log in)

DavidWe: Why BJ?

RichardKM: it was a third grader who first taught me to use a computer catalog

BethOI: Yes, but in the line of playing video games. I'd like them to learn how to use the tools also.

DavidWe smiles

LesleyF: so before we obsess with 7 year olds, let's look at the conditions of the school in terms of tech planning -- which does get to the bigger picture of curriculum, etc.

LesleyF: a good site for that kind of systems tech assessment and planning is found at <http://www.ncrel.org/engage>

LesleyF: let me know what you think...

BethOI: One idea, that I've heard others use is computer savvy kids to help teachers become more comfortable with tools. I'm worried that this might intimidate some teachers more. Has anyone tried this in their schools?

LesleyF: that leads me to the next point, Beth. Adult learners.

DavidWe raises his hand

HeatherBu: Yes, Beth, I'm just starting that this year.

LesleyF: Yes, David?

DavidWe: Yes, I know of places where students help teachers with computer usage

DavidWe smiles

RichardKM: from the site: Today's children are "growing up digital."

LesleyF: great! It depends on the school's culture/norms --

BethOI: David, Heather, success stories?

DavidWe: Almost everything depends on school's culture/norms --

DavidWe: I can send you a book of success stories, Beth, published almost 10 years ago

RichardKM: the only way I could ever operate was by making the students the leaders of the journey.....

LesleyF: it takes risks to learn -- and to show vulnerability -- but it also shows that one can be a lifelong learner.

MatthewGst3: It was offered to me by a fellow student at my last LI class that she hands library aides the contents of the requirements of her assignments and they gather up all the particulars for her to use to complete them.

RichardKM: I was there just to facilitate and point out gizmos along the way -- as they discovered the need

LesleyF: In that respect, if you offer a variety of training options, ONE can be a buddy session where the teacher brings a student along and they both work on the technology.

DavidWe: I think it is a much tougher atmosphere (in my experience) these days to risk and show vulnerability than it was 10 years ago

MatthewGst3: That's LI570, by the way.

LesleyF: It's really important in those cases to set down rules so students don't take over the keyboard and mouse.

LesleyF: sometimes we forget that collaboration can cross ages as well as teaching roles...

BethOI: That's one thing that I really like that's in those 21st century skills- Collaboration.

HeatherBu: I start that rule in my classroom...students may TELL another student how to do something, but not DO it for them.

LesleyF: good coaching, Heather

RichardKM: what you are discussing is the difference between teaching and what passes for educ these days --- scripted lessons....

LesleyF: oh wow -- inquiry-based learning? authentic tasks?

LesleyF: open-ended and open-minded?

RichardKM: my students wrote the rules

DavidWe smiles

LesleyF: good approach, Richard

RichardKM: otherwise they didn't accept them

LesleyF: exactly --- ownership, etc.

LesleyF: so what else do we need to keep in mind with adult learners?

HeatherBu whispers "ego"

MarcGst2: their willingness to learn

BethOI: Actually, a lot of our teachers seem to be pretty good with authentic project based learning at least at the HS. Somehow the library has just been left out of the equation until now and the students don't have the infolit skills to do the quality of work that they otherwise could.

LesleyF: yes, and they have to see the reason/the payoff for learning

MatthewGst3: The same things we need to keep in mind with child learners...?

MarcGst2: if they have apprehension, especially when it comes to technology

LesleyF: well, one thing is that adults DO bring more experience with them -- both success and failure. And they SHOULD be able to contextualize the info better -- so that can offset the digital immigrant mentality a bit

BethOI: Willingness to learn is hit and miss with the teachers... but they pay attention to successes. I'm hoping to use the willing ones to create some success stories to interest others.

MarcGst2: I think most adult teacher learners are used to being successful, so when it comes to technology and they are apprehensive, barriers that don't usually exist go up.

RichardKM: that's why I always began with the newest teachers

LesleyF: I also found that teachers need a short/immediate transfer of learning -- so it's best to show curricular-centric uses of technology -- science, art, etc.

MarcGst2: So the key is providing them with success right up front

LesleyF: the newbies can also assume that the training is the norm...

MatthewGst3: Digital immigrant mentality? Am I missing something?

DavidWe smiles

LesleyF: yep, Marc. All ages like instant gratification.

DavidWe . o O (Digital natives/digital immigrants)

BethOI: At Marlborough, they went from one Smart Board to several, to all but one in a department having one in their classes, and now that one's begging for one for next year. If they see how technology, library collaboration, etc. benefits their peers they want it.

LesleyF: well, some of us predate Internet. We didn't grow up with a computer in our dens.

MatthewGst3: Oh.

LesleyF: yes, Beth, seeing others being successful is a great motivation

BJB2: oh?

BJB2 rolls her eyes...LOTS of us are of that generation, Matt!

MatthewGst3: Digital native/digital immigrant.

LesleyF: right

BethOI: We played around with programming in BASIC when it came out, and remember the big computers and punch bit cards at the Universities.

LesleyF: However, it should be said that youngsters aren't born with chips in their heads so they might have been in the location where tech surrounds them but they can still be sort of ignorant.

HeatherBu reaches for her cane and Apple IIe

LesleyF: I remember the days... but let's look forward...

BethOI: Ignorant of most effective uses, ethical uses, best applications, etc.

MatthewGst3: It's a computer that's teaching my third grader reading, God bless it!

LesleyF: so we've got some ground rules and mental approaches... LMTs can be a help by providing resources to help teachers teach themselves -- or with others.

LesleyF: I've put together a couple of documents that have proven useful (although you'll need to double check URLs, as always).

LesleyF: You should be able to see 2 files in the Cybrarians space. One is a list of teacher tech tools (crossword puzzles, templates, etc.) and the other one is a grid I created in response to teachers' request for training -- based on a self-assessment survey they did. You are welcome to use these documents as you see fit.

HeatherBu: Lesley, what did the teachers use for the self-assessment?

LesleyF: it's a department survey they gerry-rigged. I'll point out a simple one I like.

HeatherBu: Please.

LesleyF: I also want to say that tech training can happen on several levels: 1-1 when planning a single learning activity, focusing on 1 grade or subject area, with new teachers during the year, or as a whole-school effort.

MarcGst2: This may be part of your first level, but significant tech training happens when you are teaching another teacher's students. Its great to hear the classroom teacher say, "wow, I learned a lot today"

BethOI: I think that as with students they need to see application and use the tech introduced even if it's done as a group whole school, or department. Break them into groups and facilitate them trying out and considering how to apply with their instruction as well as introducing the tech.

LesleyF: good ideas, Beth. I'm going to upload another good article on technology standards.

BethOI: The teachers often feel like they learn a lot. I've heard that often already in a week. The one that surprised me most was when I introduced myself at the HS faculty meeting. A teacher said I learned so much about the library, can I come be in your classes... she was delighted to find out that collaborating and doing it together is the point.

LesleyF: Here's the quickie: <http://www.atomiclearning.com/assessyourself/>

LesleyF: I need to leave for a scholarship dinner -- any last comments -- or ideas for next month's discussion?

HeatherBu: thank you, Lesley.

LesleyF: Beth brings up a good point: focus on the tech usefulness in terms of the library's use -- in support of student learning.

BJB2: Next TL is June 21

MatthewGst3: I'd like to see a proposal for specific topics of tech training for teachers by LMTs.

BethOI: I'm glad I joined you. It can feel lonely as the only LMT in the district.

LesleyF: give me a "for-instance," Matthew

LesleyF: yes, Beth, online networking beats echo chambers...

MatthewGst3: Just a sort of "Must List" to get new LMTs aware of their expected roles in this part of the field.

MatthewGst3: More aware of where to start, that is (call me a newbie, if you will).

LesleyF: well, we can talk about good tech "starters" for LMTs -- even if one is a veteran, one could be new to a site.

LesleyF: what do others think?

HeatherBu: Sounds great to me.

KathyBu: I think that sounds helpful. Let's go for it.

BethOI: Fine

LesleyF: Let it be so (*with regards to Captain Picard)

LesleyF: thanks for participating today, folks. Some good points well made

BethOI: Goodbye all, until we meet again.

LesleyF: in cyberspaaaaaaace

HeatherBu waves bye

KathyBu: Bye.

DavidWe waves

MatthewGst3: I truly liked this experience. t