

Title of Session: Middle School Portal - Social Networking

Moderator: Kimberly Lightle

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Room: Middle School Portal Group

KimberlySL: I have to say that I was going to discuss social bookmarking sites tonight but just didn't get to putting the discussion together - that will be the topic next month

KimberlySL: what I want to do tonight is a continuation of last month's chat - online social networking

SusanR: Bill, where is Selkirk? I am from Ottawa, Ontario

KimberlySL: before we do that - let's introduce ourselves

BillBe: north shore of Lake Erie, south of Hamilton

BJB2 nods to Kim.

BJB2: I'm a retired communication and art teacher in Pennsylvania

KimberlySL: I'm a science educator at Ohio State in Columbus Ohio (I work with math and science inservice teachers)

BillBe: I'm a cross between a career developer and a software developer

BillBe: I facilitate mostly on-line

SusanR: I am a supply teacher in Ottawa, Ontario and I moderate the K to 3 Great Resources sessions here.

KimberlySL: Great - I'm sure that I'll get lots of good advice!

KimberlySL: Last chat was about social networks – I wanted to look at look at a couple of NING networks but they were doing housekeeping so we couldn't look at them.

KimberlySL: The Middle School Portal - <http://msteacher.org> - is starting a social network - we'd like feedback on what we have so far and what we need to add

KimberlySL: in fact - in about a month if you go to <http://msteacher.org> you'll see <http://msportal-2.ning.com/>

KimberlySL: The URL will still be <http://msteacher.org>

KimberlySL: do any of you have experience with NING?

BillBe: yup

BillBe: just as a user though

KimberlySL: building a NING site is easy and free - sounds like a winner to me!

BillBe: is there a stay-on-top setting for this chat thingy?

KimberlySL: What I want to do tonight is to look at two NING sites that have lots and lots of members and get feedback on what you like or don't like so we can add those functionalities to the MSP NING

BJB2: Bill, try detaching your chat

BillBe: it's detached, thanks

BJB2: then just overlap your screens

BillBe: ok

KimberlySL: Classroom 2.0 - <http://www.classroom20.com/> - please click on the link and look at this site - what's on the left, middle, and right

KimberlySL: and think of our audience - middle school math and science teachers

KimberlySL: what do you think our audience would think was cool, ridiculous, etc.

BillBe: I like the Diigo bookmarks. Photos are great.

KimberlySL: BTW - Classroom 2.0 has over 12,000 members

KimberlySL: What do you think of the Translate feature?

BillBe: The sign up or sign in stands out well.

KimberlySL: I really think the Hosts (left near top) are pretty cool.

BillBe: Tried translating to French. It flickered in la belle langue then back to our favourite.

SusanR: I like the three column format

KimberlySL: I don't know whether you can change the three columns or not

KimberlySL: There are 11 products that come “standard” when building a NING network – everything from custom video players to event listings. Premium services are also available such as replacing the NING url with your own.

KimberlySL: If there are students in the NING - you can get the ads removed for free (otherwise it's like 24.00/month)

KimberlySL: Another NING is NING in Education - <http://education.ning.com/>

BJB2 . o O (no ads in Tapped In and there is a K-12 Student Campus)

KimberlySL: Good point!

KimberlySL: The father of both of these NINGs is Steve Hargadon

BJB2 . o O (Steve takes his fatherhood very seriously!)

KimberlySL: I do like the red between the different parts of the site - the sections really stand out.

KimberlySL: HA

KimberlySL: Now click on this URL and enjoy the warm fire - <http://msportal-2.ning.com/>

BJB2: great, Kim!

BillBe: Is that you pictured on the page, Kim

KimberlySL: Yep - second from the left

BillBe: nice bar at the top!

KimberlySL: That's interesting - I guess because I'm on my picture moved!

BillBe: so web2

KimberlySL: We have a banner graphic that will across the top - coming soon - we are just playing with stuff now although we decided to keep it public and hopefully people will help us design it

KimberlySL: I'm on the MSP NING - look down the right side - we are RSS-feeding a bunch of blogs - two that I work on and then three from the NYT

KimberlySL: do you think we need to explain them or will people just be intrigued by

the titles and click?

KimberlySL: You'll notice that there are no ads

BillBe: I understand that it all depends on the titles of the articles ...

BillBe: ... some of these definitely draw my interest. In fact just before you wrote that I was going to ask where they came from

KimberlySL: maybe we should put them higher in the page? and give them a description?

BillBe: do you mean the individual items or the collections?

KimberlySL: maybe the collections - like Education or Connecting News

SusanR: What's the learning curve for setting up a Ning?

KimberlySL: minimal to nothing - all template based

KimberlySL: you pick and chose look, feel, what tabs, etc.

BillBe: perhaps something that indicates that the items are continually updated

BillBe: dates perhaps?

SusanR: I see

KimberlySL: I have a programmer at Ohio State helping me because I'm doing a little more than normal

BillBe: what kind of thing does the programmer have to do?

KimberlySL: to Bill - good idea about dates - I do want to show currentness

KimberlySL: I'm not a programmer at all so even adding that fireplace widget would have been over my head

BillBe: k, I get it

KimberlySL: Look at the word cloud at the bottom - Justin added it for me (doesn't quite look right yet)

BillBe: I couldn't get zoomclouds to work correctly on my blog. it wouldn't display correctly

KimberlySL: interesting - I haven't talked to Justin about what he thinks yet

BillBe: I wish I could get my hands on the part of zoomclouds that identifies noun phrases (or whatever they're called) like "international space station"

KimberlySL: I surely don't know!

BillBe: are you putting the tags in or is zoomcloud extracting them for you?

KimberlySL: Zoomcloud (or whatever tool Justin is using) is

BillBe: it's amazing

KimberlySL: <http://www.classroom20.com/> - back to MSP NING - click on the Publications Tab and then Science or Math

BJB2: have you tried www.wordle.com, Bill?

BillBe: yup, very nice

KimberlySL: Right now these publications are hard-coded but we're converting them to wiki so they will be MSPedia - ha

BillBe: problem is I haven't published enough words :)

BillBe: sorry, can't find publications

KimberlySL: About the programmer - he took static web pages and integrated them into the NING

KimberlySL: <http://msportal-2.ning.com/> - go to here and look at the tabs - Publications is seventh one

SusanR: How about using Wordle with your delicious account

KimberlySL: and I guess you really don't click - just roll over and then click on math or science

BJB2: oh, nice, Kim!

KimberlySL: About Search (which is basically what Wordle is) - go to <http://www.classroom20.com/> and look to the right under More Search Tools - there is a search just for the Classroom 2.0 NING, all nings, and then something that says conversations.net - <http://www.conversations.net/> - it searches where people are having conversations

BillBe: well that's new to me anyway

KimberlySL: Don't know how useful - just thought it was cool (like so much of what is being developed is)

KimberlySL: Bill - did you find publications?

BillBe: yes, thanks

BillBe: I was mesmerized

BJB2: would the conversations thing be like twitter?

KimberlySL: I'm not sure what you're thinking

SusanR: a neat tool for searching out conversations!

BJB2: twitter allows you to follow certain people who post or twit

BJB2: . o O (there are even several different kinds of twitter sites now)

KimberlySL: I just tried middle school math in the Diigo conversations - one posting came up - I could contact him and discuss common interests

BJB2: Sue knows more about twitter than I do

KimberlySL: Have any of you read Clay Shirky's Here Comes Everybody?

SusanR: a handy tool for finding out the latest buzz

BillBe: nope, what the dickens is that?

KimberlySL: It's really good - all about how these web tools are changing everything for everyone

SusanR listens

KimberlySL: I would highly recommend it

BillBe: thank you I'll definitely look for it

KimberlySL: You won't be disappointed

KimberlySL: I think its time to wrap up - if you have time I would really like more feedback on the MSP NING - and maybe join the Classroom 2.0 or NING in Education groups - they are both quite active and I have learned a lot

BillBe: Thank you very much for leading this, Kim.

BJB2: Thanks, Kim. A small but enthusiastic group ;-)

BillBe: Some really good stuff

KimberlySL: You are welcome - I enjoyed it

SusanR: I am just getting my feet wet with NINGS, Thanks Kimberly

KimberlySL: Over and out - have a nice rest of the evening

BJB2 waves bye and heads for the SPED group

BillBe: Take care everyone and good night.