

Title of Session: Targeting Librarians! Wikis

Moderator: Lesley Farmer

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LesleyF: hi, Patty. I was interviewing students and it took longer than expected. Good to see you here.

PattyFe : hi Lesley

LesleyF: So just as a quick intro, I direct the librarianship program at California State University at Long Beach. And you??

PattyFe : I am the computer resource teacher for K - 5 and staff at a 450 population elementary school in Virginia Beach

LesleyF: cool -- I used to teach at VCU

PattyFe : I used a blog last year for Iditarod. Was going to use a wiki this year, but couldn't convince the teacher\

BJB2: I just saw the most darling blog during the K-3 discussion yesterday...let me see if I can find it

LesleyF: What do you hope to get out of this session on wikis?

PattyFe : we did participate in VaRegions wiki(4th grade gifted cluster class)

BJB2: http://www.classblogmeister.com/blog.php?blogger_id=1337

PattyFe : not sure, just more information about how to use wikis, how to get teachers onboard

BJB2 wonders if you could do pretty much the same thing on a wiki as you can on a blog plus have the group editing feature

PattyFe : probably, but the term was different and thought I could get her hooked

LesleyF: have you used blogs? Do you know the difference between the 2?

PattyFe : with the blog we had logins and students responded to each other

PattyFe : with the wiki, it seems as it can be edited at all times

LesleyF: wikis are certainly more collaborative

PattyFe : seems like it would be good especially for writing and language arts, story starter

LesleyF: yes, wikis would be great for building on stories because students can edit each other's work and add to it on the fly. and wikis keep a record of the changes so you can see what each students is contributing.

PattyFe : for awhile our school system along with others didn't really like wikipedia

BJB2: can you embed video and podcasts?

LesleyF: Yes, both blogs and wikis allow for a variety of input formats. The benefits of the digital age.

PattyFe : I have within the wiki. I haven't tried podcasts. working more with voicethreads

LesleyF: Do you use the product Voice Threads?

PattyFe : the students love to choose avatars

PattyFe : yes voicethread

LesleyF: So the VA region's wiki was a dedicated program?

PattyFe : worked with classrooms across the state of Virginia

PattyFe : we are from tidewater

PattyFe : <http://regionsofva.wikispaces.com/>

LesleyF: Cool! That's a neat area. == do the students do wikis or blogs across classes or schools or districts?

PattyFe : I haven't gotten my teachers to that point yet

PattyFe : usually just within their own classroom for now; this was a first

LesleyF: thanks for sharing the wiki; it gives me a better idea of what's happening. So let's start with that.

PattyFe : same teacher (also involved in Iditarod)

PattyFe : I love ideas

LesleyF: I love the joint gathering of data; that's an excellent way to use wikis.

LesleyF: Are you having them take photos of their geographic areas and posting them?

PattyFe : we did a voicethread of landmarks

LesleyF: Then they can make comparisons. If you want to get really fancy, you can have them do mashups.

LesleyF: Good. And are you incorporating Google Earth?

PattyFe : what is a mashup ?

PattyFe : not to google earth yet, still trying to hook teachers

PattyFe : I did take 2nd grade to Egypt and China and 3rd to Mali

LesleyF: A mashup is two different applications that are "mashed" together. The typical example is maps.yahoo.com or similar, where they show restaurants or local sites pinpointed on a map.

LesleyF: were your field trips to Egypt and Mali via Google Earth?

PattyFe : yes. here in Virginia. 2nd grade studies Egypt and China and 3rd is Greece, Rome Mali

BJB2 listens closely....and wonders if she can hide in Patty's classroom

PattyFe : also virtual field trips to the pyramids is fun

PattyFe : what do you mean BJ?

BJB2: even a virtual field trip sounds very cool!

LesleyF: I would think that teachers would love to play with Google Earth (even if it's not about wikis...)

PattyFe : I truly enjoy what I am doing, but I feel that my teachers are not working to their students potential. The teachers are stuck in the old way of teaching

PattyFe : the old way works so why fix it

BJB2 chuckles...I have another url for that one, Patty. You'll like this too, Lesley. Sue Roseman showed this during K-3 yesterday

LesleyF: I understand that. In a way, wikis can be an easy transition because of the joint writing -- with individual accountability. Any topic, as you've shown in the VA regions, can be split into sub topics, with each student -- or small group -- being in charge of the writing.

BJB2: <http://newspapertree.com/opinion/3613-the-rise-of-the-digital-refuseniks>

PattyFe : nothing better than being on the Great Wall of China and being able to do a 360 and see the landscape and what is around

BJB2 . o O (Lesley did that trip in real life!)

BJB2 . o O (that's a little better ;-) but guess it's not realistic for a whole class)

LesleyF: I wasn't at the Great Wall, but I've been in some interesting places -- near the Himalayas, the Emirates (2 weeks ago..)

PattyFe : kinda like digital natives :-)

LesleyF: ANYway, wikis can be used as a field trip concept, which you already know. Let's think of some other applications.

PattyFe : ok, I'm with you

LesleyF: Here are a couple of sites that are starters: <http://teachingwiki.org>

LesleyF: www.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ELI7004.pdf

PattyFe : the first one is new to me. second one, educause I visit every now and then

PattyFe : I'll check them out later

LesleyF: Good. You know that the session is archived, right?

PattyFe : yes, get an email transcript which I love!!

PattyFe : I have participated in a pbwiki

LesleyF: I think what happened is that teachers blanch when they hear Wikipedia, and they swear off all wikis in general.

PattyFe : not sure exactly how it is different

BJB2 . o O (Wikipedia is such a great teaching tool!)

PattyFe : since I teach K - 5 to research I make sure to check sites ahead of time for

content. Sometimes wikipedia isn't exactly what we are looking for

LesleyF: I use pbwiki as well. There's also wetpaint, Socialtext workspace, XwWiki, See Wiki, Jotspot, EditMe

PattyFe : introduced to wetpaint but none of the others

LesleyF: So I still maintain that the school could create its own little encyclopedia made up of students' research papers on a topic.

PattyFe : yes that sounds like a great idea

PattyFe : I can post student work off of our website as long as no pictures and no last names

LesleyF: Each class could start with one research paper/report assignment, and then build over the years.

PattyFe : so in other words it would carry on from year to year, teacher to teacher

LesleyF: I also like wikis for literature circles: students commenting on a book/piece of literature.

PattyFe : almost like a scrapbook

LesleyF: Right, Patty, just like the Encyclopedia Britannica...

LesleyF: or scrapbook. You could start with a wiki school yearbook.

LesleyF: Just be careful of names and pix.

PattyFe : how would I do that

PattyFe : we have particular forms that have to be signed and yes, that is one of my jobs also

BJB2 . o O ("what I learned in kindergarten")

LesleyF: A wiki space could be divided by month, by type of activity, by grade, or all of the above.

PattyFe : so the students would actually be creating a timeline of sorts

LesleyF: That would be very cool, yes.

LesleyF: And they can fill in the time slots.

PattyFe : would each student have a login, wiki of their own?

PattyFe : how would I manage this?

LesleyF: yes,. and you can make the wiki private to just the students and teachers so it doesn't go out publicly.

PattyFe : that is what I do now for safety

LesleyF: Each teacher can be in charge of his/her own class.

PattyFe : that would be a BIG step. I am the one that has to keep up with these types of things in order for the students to benefit

LesleyF: delegate -- and have a central protocol/procedure that you show/give to all teachers.

PattyFe : over and beyond for them

PattyFe : a few teachers would

LesleyF: Have a parent volunteer do it then.

LesleyF: although it's better to keep it to staff....

PattyFe : that I have. A wonderful one that I thought I was losing this year because of going to 6th grade. But she is staying because I trust her so much

LesleyF: Remember that it's a onetime thing, pretty much.

LesleyF: You can also use wikis as study groups, particularly for the older students. They can help each other -- or students can build knowledge together on class topics.]

LesleyF: The teacher can find out how accurate they are... and also correct misunderstandings.

LesleyF: A very simple wiki could be book reviews/reports/testimonials that can be done by book genre or age group.

LesleyF: Still another approach is point of view. Say a class is studying the middle ages. Each child can be a different character within a realm, from king to serf and they write of their own experiences in the middle ages, drawing upon their research.

PattyFe : how would you use it as a study group

JeffC joined the room.

BJB2: are you familiar with GoodReads, Lesley? <http://www.goodreads.com/>

PattyFe : I guess I need to see more examples, like the book genre, reviews, etc; you mean no more sandwich boards

BJB2: look at that url, Patty

LesleyF: for a study group, set up students in groups (they can self-select). Then as students have questions, they pose them to the group, and their peers answer. They build on each other's knowledge. They should back their statements by their textbooks or other resources. Again, the teacher should monitor to make sure that students aren't giving each other wrong info.

LesleyF: yes, I know goodreads. There are several such.

BJB2: is that wiki based?

PattyFe : almost like

PattyFe : teaching each other and becoming experts themselves to teach others

LesleyF: BTW, the site <http://www.wikimatrix.org> compares almost a 100 different wiki applications.

PattyFe : great. Thanks for that site Leslie

PattyFe : I need to check out goodreads also

LesleyF: I think of goodreads more as a social bookmarking/network application. A similar one is LibraryThing.

PattyFe : out of 22 classroom teachers (not counting Sp Ed) I have about 4 I can depend on to stretch to the limit

PattyFe : not familiar with Library Thing (must be a library thing!!)

LesleyF: It would be interesting to find out how many students are independently doing wikis (e.g., Girl Scouts, Magic Card players, etc.).

LesleyF: Yes, LibraryThing HAS caught on with us library folk

PattyFe : yes it would. Many times I overhear 'talks' even like facebook, myspace, etc

PattyFe : not a big fan of them (I do have accounts)

LesleyF: I like wikis better because of their collaborative aspect, the tracking feature, and the privacy levels.

PattyFe : collaboration is the key for everyone concerned

PattyFe : I have a hard time even getting my teachers to collaborate and plan with me

PattyFe : one of my goals for next year - get my principal to 'assign' at least one time per month (or 9 weeks) that is mandatory to plan with my librarian and me (we share an office)

LesleyF: BTW, if you want to explain wikis to the teachers, I'd suggest <http://www.commoncraft.com> they have a series of very simple tech explanations

JeffC: That's why you need to think outside the box, and collaborate with others who are already of that mindset, Patty.

PattyFe : they are few and far between

PattyFe : Virginia is a big huge SOL state

PattyFe : teach to the test

LesleyF: Boy, I'd use a wiki as a way to work with other teachers to fashion curriculum, grants, school initiatives, etc.

PattyFe : ok, give me some ideas

JeffC: well... you could start by creating your own classroom *here*... there are over 500 K-12 classrooms (obviously not everyone's using them, but my goal is to facilitate collaboration between K-12 classes here). I give support and tours of the K-12 Campus on Saturday... 2p.m. Eastern.

PattyFe : how is it having just one student in the class who is extremely interested and wanting answers!!!

LesleyF: You can even start by having them USE and SEE different wikis, such as the digital citizenship one done by California school librarians: <http://csla2008.pbwiki.com>

JeffC . o O (better than none!!!)

PattyFe : once I found this site, I was hooked

LesleyF: Teachers can create a wiki of lesson plans.

JeffC: if you look at the Calendar you'll see that this Saturday is a special two hour collaboration special, where I'll specifically work on getting teachers to collaborate.

PattyFe : so their lesson plans are all contained within the wiki for all teachers to access or just them?

LesleyF: they can set the level as to read only or edit.

PattyFe : problem: we have SharePoint where they can do the same thing

LesleyF: increasingly, professional associations are creating wikis, so it would be interesting if teachers could self-report about professional wikis -- or even social/hobby ones.

JeffC: SharePoint works with others who have SharePoint.

LesleyF: so compare SharePoint with wikis.

JeffC: sharepoint costs, wikis don't

PattyFe : sharepoint is new to them and paid by the school system. even our 4th graders and up have accounts

LesleyF: although you CAN pay for wikis...

JeffC: yup

PattyFe : I will definitely compare the two

LesleyF: and of course, it would be even better if the teachers could do the comparing...

PattyFe : maybe I need a change of scenery and teachers :-)

LesleyF: another way is to start with the kids, such as an interest group: anime club, eco club, etc.

PattyFe : that could work

LesleyF: well, there's always 2nd life for change of scenery...

PattyFe : no time for that right now

LesleyF: if you can find people (teachers OR students) who use wikis effectively, and share those experiences, that's probably an easy way to start. Build on success and show concrete impact.

PattyFe : sorry I was multi tasking and checking out the RSS feed to tappedin

BJB2 . o O (I also tweet the daily events, Patty tappedinorg)

PattyFe : for the last 36 weeks I have had no time to tweet or twitter. maybe with my blackberry I can find time now

LesleyF: we're all multitasking to some degree -- I'm looking up articles on wikis

PattyFe : just need to figure it out and possibly read the manual, my son bought it for me Edge

LesleyF: here's a wiki on children's books, for instance: <http://atn-reading-lists.wikispaces.com>

PattyFe : thanks. that looks interesting. maybe I can get my library media specialist interested - or the gifted resource teacher

LesleyF: one of the nice things about wiki is its origin/rationale: quick webpages. So teachers and students can focus on content rather than the technical stuff

PattyFe : yes, wiki means quick quick in Hawaiian (I think I read that somewhere)

LesleyF: right

LesleyF: so does that give you enough to start with?

LesleyF: you might even have a student wiki club where their mission is to find neat wikis and to build them -- and sell the idea of wikis to the rest of the school

PattyFe : what is crazy is I opened a wiki to public for my class this morning and I am getting emails request to join
<http://pkfessercapstone.wikispaces.com/My+Capstone+Experience>

PattyFe : I even changed the profile and settings

LesleyF: it's a fast-moving environment...

LesleyF: another reason most of my stuff is private

PattyFe : I have to have this public at least for my class. but I shouldn't have to approve the requests each time

LesleyF: you should be able to set that up

PattyFe : I thought I did. I guess I have a lot more to learn

PattyFe : It was a video I made that needed to be reviewed by my colleagues

LesleyF: it sounds like you've got lots of good ideas and an open spirit, so you are probably a great model -- just remember to sprinkle bread crumbs so others can follow and not get lost.

PattyFe : 5 mg [is] so [much] easier to upload to a wiki than the Capstone discussion board

PattyFe : like Hansel and Gretel... otherwise I would never get home

LesleyF: I know the feeling.

LesleyF: So at this point, I usually set the topic for the next month. Anything you want to pursue?

PattyFe : your choice. just tell me what, when, date, time and I'll check my calendar

PattyFe : this has been extremely enlightening and I have many items I need to check out]\

LesleyF: 3rd Wed., 4:30pm PDT.

BJB2: May 20, 7:30pm EDT

JeffC recommends <http://www.ourmedia.org> for video uploads.

PattyFe : thanks to everyone. I'm sorry I was the only one, but I feel special that I had so much attention

BJB2 . o O (you are special!)

LesleyF: want to talk about children's literature and tech -- that can weave in blogs, videos, wikis, podcasts, collaboration , libraryThings, etc.

LesleyF: How does that sound?

PattyFe : that sounds great, like I said, maybe I can convince my librarian

BJB2: sounds good to me....I'm always interested in anything you talk about, Lesley!

LesleyF: Them's that's here gets to decide... ownership deal (so it pays to be special)

PattyFe : I haven't tried podcasts yet

JeffC: Lesley and patty... my site of the month is <http://www.tikatok.com>

LesleyF: YES< get your librarian online...

PattyFe: I'll check it out Jeff thanks

JeffC: kids from K-12 can write their own books... collaborate... free (unless they want to buy a hard copy).

PattyFe: I will sure try. She is 'shy' when it comes to technology

LesleyF: yes, we can feature that among others -- we'll focus on what Kids can produce.

PattyFe: we do StudentTreasures, is that sorta the same

PattyFe: yes, kid production

LesleyF: sounds like a plan. Thanks!

PattyFe: my next purchase - green screen

PattyFe: thanks Leslie, BJ and Jeff

JeffC hasn't used Student Treasures... but with the sites that I got from Susan yesterday... about how to introduce students to the elements of lit, I'll put together something cohesive.

PattyFe: It's been fun and an eye opener

PattyFe: can't wait to get my email transcript

BJB2 waves goodnight. Thanks for leading the discussion, Lesley...and for your enthusiastic participation, Patty and Jeff!

LesleyF: another trick, BTW, is to use overhead transparencies of sites, and have the students in front of them; if you angle it right, it looks like they're at the site (when videotaping)

PattyFe: goodnight to all

LesleyF: thanks, all, as always