

Title of Session: Webtools - Search Engines

Moderator: Pam Berger

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MaryDe: This is my first time in TappedIn...pretty amazing!

BJ: Welcome to the first WebTools discussion in the new TI2, everyone!

BJ: to help you with the discussion, please read the helpful hints note at the top half of your screen

BJ: we usually start all the discussions with introductions...

BJ: I'm a teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for TAPPED IN

MaryDe: I teach 8th grade math in Illinois--suburb of Chicago.

HeatherW: I am a business teacher / district tech coordinator / class sponsor / fbla sponsor / on about 4 committees in a small rural school about 2 hrs south of st. louis, oh, and i'm going to grad school in my spare time

MaryDe: Heather, I'm in grad school too--Univ. of Missouri, Columbia

PamB: I'm Pam Berger, an educational technology consultant from NY. I work with school districts around the county, present at conferences, edit and publish the Information Searcher, a newsletter for technology and curriculum integration. Welcome to WebTools!

PamB: Jasen, Jeff...do you want to introduce yourselves?

BJ thinks Jeff is multitasking

PamB: hi Steve, we were just introducing yourselves.

SteveW: Just passing through, was in on the blogsearlier . I'm a science teacher at Neuqua in Naperville, IL.

PamB: well let's begin and they can jump in when they return

MaryDe: Steve Wick, is that you?

PamB: You're welcome to join us, steve...

SteveW: Yep

SteveW: Hello Mary

PamB: we are going to explore two search engines this evening.

PamB: Kartoo and Vivisimo

BJ likes those engines.

PamB: They are very different.

PamB: Have you used either one?

HeatherW: i've never heard of them

SteveW: heard of vivisimo but never used either, mostly google now a days for me or dogpile or hidden planet

MaryDe: Neither have I...Steve, this is Mary Decker; we used to teach on the same team everyone. Sorry to interrupt...small world!!!

SteveW: yup

PamB: google is still the most popular..hand down!

PamB: There is a new book out on google...Google Hack...it's great...

PamB: It gives you great tips on how to use google to its fullest.

PamB: Kartoo is considered a graphical search engine.

MaryDe: What makes it graphical?

JeffC: Pam... you use vivismo?

JeffC: Vivismo's creator will be taking a workshop from me next week... that's the reason I ask.

PamB: Once Kartoo finds the results, it then sorts and classifies them, and displays them cartographically. This visual display is what sets Kartoo apart from other sites on the web. Each group of ten results is represented on the screen as a map that looks like a solar system with planets large and small. Larger circles (the "planets") represent more relevant hits, while smaller ones are less important. Circles closer to the center of the map are likewise rated more important by Kartoo. Linking the circles are lines that represent similar subject areas.

MaryDe: What are the URLs for both of these?

PamB: Anyway, let's go look at kartoo and then come back and discuss it.

BJ: a reminder to click on the actions drop down menu and scroll down to DETACH to make your text window larger

PamB: the url is <http://www.kartoo.com>

JeffC: www.vivisimo.com

PamB: go to kartoo first, then we look at vivisimo a little later.

JeffC: Cool.

SteveW: Well got to go, sorry could not stay longer i will definitely look at this archive. See you later Mary.

SteveW left the room (signed off).

BJ hopes everyone knows to click on the hyperlinked url to open the webpage

JeffC: Kartoo is excellent... I've seen search engines like this before... they are **especially** good for the visual learner.

MaryDe: Very interesting...I would have to take a lot more time to really explore the graphical representation.

PamB: Jeff, what other ones are there?

PamB: do you have the URLs? We can go look.

JeffC: Oh gosh... I'd have to go look in my own "Search" folder:

<http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/coops> I have links to over 100 search engines, etc. in that folder.

PamB: Can you point to the graphical search engines for us?

JeffC: I'm pretty much a boring "google" type of person myself. However, I must say, that

I use a trick question to start off workshops. I ask people what the best way to search the internet is, and they say "Google" most of the time. Others might say Metacrawler or Dogpile and someone always says Yahoo (which is supposed to be upgrading)... I say "No...

the best way is through me, and you and you and you... **humans** are the best, but we just have to get to know each other better!"

JeffC: I'll look for some other graphical search engines for you.

JeffC: But darn... I have to go... I have to pick up my kids.

JeffC: Sorry.

MaryDe: I really think that my students would like the graphical approach...What's all the stuff on the left frame that comes up?

PamB: Thanks Jeff.

JeffC waves bfn... will try to come back before 6.

JeffC left the room (signed off).

PamB: Mary, i think you are looking at a description of the website.

PamB: It appears as you run your cursor over one of the hits.

MaryDe: It looked like part of the text almost; is it what you would find that comes up in search engines like Excite, etc?

PamB: I find kids like Kartoo better than adults.

PamB: Yes, it's a brief description of the website.

MaryDe: I have to admit that I use Excite all the time. I've gotten really good at finding what I need.

PamB: I find we all stick to one or two search engines that we use all the time.

PamB: I'm hooked on google...before that it was altavista.

PamB: But I try to look at new ones to see how they can help students to understand searching.

MaryDe: I will definitely check out Kartoo more thoroughly when I get a chance.

PamB: Let's look at vivisimo. It's considered a clustering search engine.

PamB: When you go to it, do a search and look on the left side of the screen. Try searching for Venus.

PamB: And then look at the results on the left side...it will cluster the results for you.

PamB: <http://www.vivisimo.com>

MaryDe: OOPS, sorry, kinda got lost for a moment, but I'm back

PamB: did you try vivisimo? or were you lost somewhere else? (;>

MaryDe: Vivisimo looks pretty much the same as others, except for the clustering on the left frame

MaryDe: What do you think its advantages are?

PamB: yes, it's very similar to Teoma..it also does sort of a clustering.

MaryDe: Never heard of that one either! There's so much out there...it's amazing!

PamB: I think it helps kids to see the way words are used in different contexts...very clearly on the side of the screen.

MaryDe: Are any of these created especially for helping students do research?

PamB: not really...

MaryDe: What's the URL for Teoma?

PamB: they are mostly designed to make money...one way or another.

PamB: <http://www.teoma.com>

MaryDe: Thanks!

MaryDe: I'll check it out....

PamB: Teoma was developed by Rutgers university and sold to AskJeeves.

PamB: Teoma means "expert" in Gaelic

MaryDe: My students use Ask Jeeves a lot.

PamB: have you ever used google as a reverse phone book?

MaryDe: No, I haven't.

PamB: It's a fun thing to do. just type in a phone number with area code and it will list the name and address it matches to.

PamB: It has to be in the public directory.

HeatherW: not all of them will show up -- mine doesn't, but my parent's does

PamB: Is your parent's number unlisted in the phone directory?

MaryDe: Mine probably won't ,,it's unlisted.

HeatherW: mine is listed in the public directory but it doesn't show up, my parent's new number is not listed and does not show up, but the number they had two years ago before they moved which was listed still shows up

MaryDe: Well, I have to leave now. Thanks, Pam, for the info. You've certainly given me some new places to check out as search engines.

PamB: that sounds right. Most search engines are behind.

PamB: They don't update that often...even though we think they do.

PamB: Thanks Mary. It was good talking to you.

MaryDe: Thanks again, Pam

MaryDe left the room.

PamB: I guess it almost time to end. Any final comments or questions?

PamB: Thanks for coming Heather.

HeatherW: thx pam

PamB: Thanks for your help BJ!

JeffC joined the room.

BJ nods

PamB hugs BJ

JeffC: Hi again... I'll look for those graphic search engines... unless you already found more.

PamB: Thanks Jeff.

PamB: I have to run.Good night.

JeffC: Goodnight Pam.

PamB left the room (signed off).

JeffC: Here's one: <http://wizard.imsa.edu/>