

**Title of Session:** Technology in the Classroom - Virtual Field Trips

**Moderator:** Donna Hendry

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Room: ASO

BJ: while we wait for Donna, let's start with official introductions.

BJ: I'm a helpdesk volunteer for TAPPED In and an art teacher in Pennsylvania

DonnaH joined the room.

JoanFB: I think intros are nice

MichaelPS: I am the chef instructor at the culinary school in Asbury Park.

HeatherWo: I'm Heather a University of Akron student going for my Masters and teaching certificate to become an art teacher

DonnaH: "Howdy all! Hope I didn't keep you all:)"

TonjaW: Yes, you're right. I am a non-traditional college senior. I am an elementary education major. I will finish course work in the fall and student teach in the spring. If I survive all of that I will go on to get my Library Science Masters.

JenW: I'm Jennifer -- tech coordinator at a private school in Corona, CA and also host online projects at [www.technospud.com](http://www.technospud.com) (lol -- in my spare time)

DonnaH: For those of you who don't know, my name is Donna Hendry, and I'm an educational Consultant in CT, and I'm the session leader for Technology in the Classroom:)

JoanFB: I'm Joan Baldwin, a music teacher in Perth Amboy and taking classes in administration and supervision.

MichaelPS: I am a chef instructor with the Culinary Education Center in Asbury Park NJ, it is a collaboration with Monmouth County voc. School District and Brookdale community college. I teach dining room skills, management, and house manager, externship coordinator.

DonnaH: Well, tonight, we're going to discuss the use of virtual field trips in the classroom.

JenW: claps -- we just did several of those in the past few weeks!!

HeatherWo: We've been talking about that in class

JoanFB: Can you define what a virtual field trip is, please

DonnaH: Certainly.

MichaelPS: is that the distance communication, TV, and remote,

DonnaH: A virtual field trip is a multimedia view of something that is real.  
DonnaH: it can be of a place, like the Napa Valley; or someplace a bit more unrealistic, such as the solar system.

DonnaH: It's quite a bit different than communication; because in nearly every case, there is no "person" real time at the other end.

MichaelPS: oh, I see. it is different

DonnaH: but it IS multimodal, interactive (at least the better ones) and multimedia.

DonnaH: Is everyone with me so far?

TonjaW: I have never used one, or seen one for that matter. When you use it with a classroom, how is it best presented?...individual Computers, SMART Boards?

JoanFB: That sounds exciting. How have you decided on the topic for the session?

DonnaH: Smart boards would be incredible; small groups or individual on computers...but there is no reason it couldn't be teacher led if that is all you have.

MichaelPS: we have done the TV, distance conferencing, distance learning programs, our building is wired for that. new.

HeatherWo: are there specific sites that you can use like a search engine to find places?

DonnaH: What makes a VFT more like the real thing is the actual "act" of finding the nooks and crannies of a specific place.

TonjaW: I seem to get lost in the search.

DonnaH: My website has over 150 listed, atm...but I have to renegotiate those this summer; I have nearly 200 I have to add, and probably a third that need to be removed, or re-url'd.

JoanFB: Is the purpose of this session to describe certain "trips" or to talk in general

TonjaW: What is your website?

FrankMD: How long do these sessions typically run because I have to make plans to pick up my son.

MichaelPS: is there special equipment needed for a VFT, special wiring?

DonnaH: the terms "Virtual field trip" or "electronic field trip" seems to get the best hits.

DonnaH: absolutely not.

MichaelPS: it is thru our computers? no special equipment?

HeatherWo: Frank this one's scheduled for an hour

DonnaH: in a few cases, you might need certain programming...(there's a really cool one for a 3d solar system from National Geographic) but it only works on PC's

FrankMD: Ok thank you

DonnaH: just you're regular computer.

DonnaH: here, let me share one of my favorites with you.

HeatherWo: Are they usually labeled for certain types of computers?

DonnaH: <http://www.villa-rustica.de/tour/toure.html>

DonnaH: I've found very few that work in only certain circumstances; and that is the only one that comes to mind off the top of my head.

MichaelPS: are their tours for food and beverage establishments, wineries, etc?

FrankMD: can we click on that link now or will it log us off of this discussion?

DonnaH: I thought you might ask, Michael...and there is a great one on the Napa Valley \*I was looking for the link \*grin\*)

HeatherWo: you can click on the link it will open a new window

DonnaH: not at all, Frank:)

DonnaH: \*grin\* what heather said:)

MichaelPS: by the way, I am dyslexic so please enjoy my spelling, and I might be a little behind in the questions.

MichaelPS: thanks for thinking of me Donna

HeatherWo: I have creative spelling at times too Michael

DonnaH: What makes this a strong VFT is a few reasons; #1 for schools with firewalls and lower bandwidth, it is fairly straightforward...not a huge program that needs to run.

digress.

DonnaH: #2 the topic is fairly easy to integrate into a number of different areas.

DonnaH: and #3...has anyone noticed how many different modalities the site addresses?

DonnaH: for example, you have spatial covered with the map

FrankMD: This idea of a virtual field trip is new it seems very interesting

FrankMD: new to me that is

KellyGuest1: me too

DonnaH: The first time I came across this particular site, I ended up spending over 2 hours on it.

ElisabetS: what is the student's reaction to a virtual fieldtrip?

FrankMD: are their many places that offer these types or tours?

ElisabetS: do they like it?

HeatherWo: I can see how you can spend so much time on it - this is pretty interesting

FrankMD: Can you take tours of different countries, museums, landmarks?

MichaelPS: the villa had a kitchen. sorry force of habit.

HeatherWo: lol Michael

DonnaH: \*chuckles\*

HeatherWo: do you usually set up questions for the students to answer about the site - how do you use this in the class?

MichaelPS: I like this, very interesting and not as complicated as the distance conferencing. with the AT&T wires etc.

LucindGuest2: Donna, I'm visiting as a grad student. What is your background or can I get that from your Web site?

DonnaH: Well, there are different ways. I've used a VFT of TeoTichitlan \*and yes, I know I massacred the spelling) when I was teaching Native Amer literature.

MichaelPS: best to review the site, and come up with questions before sending the students. like previewing a video before class.

DonnaH: if you want basics, they're on my site...more in depth, ask me after class, and I'll give you the url to my resume:)

ElisabetS: Donna what is the URL of your site?

DonnaH: I told THEM to come up with connections from what they found with the mythological reading they'd done.

HeatherWo: ty Michael

DonnaH: <http://www.techforteachers.org>

ElisabetS: thanks

TonjaW: Thank you, Donna.

DonnaH: I don't mind a few open-ended questions, but i find depending on the student, instead of really investigating, they look for the answers to the questions, and then they're done with it.

MichaelPS: very good for them to do that also, but you do recommend a tour first of the site correct?

DonnaH: I always suggest a teacher look at it thoroughly. sometimes there could be surprises, or dead links...and always always always, try it on the computer you plan to use the day you plan on using it.

DonnaH: ah...here we go Michael...I knew I had it.

DonnaH: <http://www.napavalley.com/napavalley/maps/clickmap.html>

MichaelPS: are the sites labeled for different ages or grades? just in case one man's art is another's "oh my god!!!"

DonnaH: nope.

DonnaH: almost never.

TonjaW: Do you think they would get more information if they were allowed to look at the VFT as a motivator for a new unit?

HeatherWo: lol Michael

JoanFB: Do you have any links that are composer related?

FrankMD: This seems like a good way to grab the students attention, too many times educators rely on lecturing and group work, this would be something that is new to most students and would grab their attention

HeatherWo: I think that's where you as the teacher have to preview it - lol

DonnaH: I've used it as that, Tonja, as well as end of unit, put what you've learned in context with the reality.

DonnaH: also, why you need to review it at school...occasionally, what we find at home as an awesome site for some mysterious reason isn't allowed through the filters.

MichaelPS: thanks, will go and look at that one.

FrankMD: Donna, is there a site that lists links to different virtual field trips?

DonnaH: the more interactive the site, the more students (especially hard to focus students) will get out of it.

MichaelPS: yes, those firewalls. we can't get to the wineries sometimes.

DonnaH: My site: <http://www.techforteachers.org/tfteft.html>

KellyGuest1: Different subject area?

DonnaH: I'll admit to having quite a few dead links atm...my summer project:(

FrankMD: thank you

DonnaH: Any request, Kelly?

JenW: I have one I use a lot, Donna would you like me to post it?

DonnaH: sure, Jen:)

JenW: <http://surfaquarium.com/virtual.htm>

KellyGuest1: I teach Health & PE, anything on those areas?

AlisonC: do you usually have students explore the site on their own in a computer lab or present and explore it from a computer/overhead setup?

TonjaW: I have a Social Studies Internship coming up in the fall. Do you have any specific VFT that would really WOW the students?

DonnaH: (looking)

DonnaH: What topics do you need to cover, Tonja?

JenW: Alison -- when I do VFT, each student works on their own computer

DonnaH: (I'm still looking Kelly! I found two, which are both down atm:())

MichaelPS: I was in Italy, sorry, I am back.

KellyGuest1: no problem

DonnaH: \*chuckles\*

JenW: however, I have homepages with questions on them which link to the vft page -- so when they click HOME they are back to the question page

FrankMD: in Italy how do you get there mike?

DonnaH: Hey, Michael, I have a tour of the jelly belly factory...unless you're a chocoholic...then I've got the Hershey Plant:)

JoanFB: Donna, I'm interested in one on musical composers

TonjaW: At this point I am not sure. I will probably observe 7th or 8th grade. I think 7th covers our KS history, and the Renaissance.

JenW: the jelly belly one is also available on VHS tape for free from Jelly Belly

JenW: for teachers

HeatherWo: lol welcome back Michael - got jet lag?

MichaelPS: the last website, click on Italy.

KellyGuest1: lol

MichaelPS: I want to go to PA, Hershey

DonnaH: \*sighs\* the ones I had, Kelly, are gone. but I'll make a point of keeping an eye out for those ones.

ElisabetS: I wonder if they'd give free chocolate samples online :)

JenW: I will get stuck at the games if we go to Hershey's

KellyGuest1: Thanks!

HeatherWo: no licking the computer screen Jen - lol

DonnaH: Okay. Musical Composers. Musical Composers are not a PLACE therefore wouldn't be a VFT...they could, however, be in an interactive field trip.

JenW: lol -- chocolate is NOT a problem -- its the games that are VERY fun

AlisonC: it would even be nice to take kids through a virtual museum field trip before they go to the museum that way they are prepared for the experience

JenW: there is a tour of Beethoven's home online

DonnaH: There are LOADS of museums that are online.

DonnaH: (send me that link, Jen, so I can add it)

MichaelPS: I like this a lot, I see you use this on individual computers, but if you project this on to a plasma screen or a projector, can you use it as a large group activity. just the tour part

DonnaH: but you see, its a PLACE \*grin\*

DonnaH: exactly.

JenW: will do -- and check out the surfaquarium when you have a chance -- its great fun

DonnaH: I have most of the ones there already \*grin\*

JenW: we just did a VFT on Aquariums around the world which my kids loved

JenW: the Shamu cam at sea world is amazing

JoanFB: What's the link for Beethoven's home?

HeatherWo: I tried looking at that Jen all I saw was water

FrankMD: Alison, I think that would be a great Idea. If the kids had a chance to view the museum prior to going to it they would have a better idea of what to look for

DonnaH: When I had preschoolers, we did a unit on China (they were in love with Mulan, so we went with the theme)

DonnaH: We visited the Forbidden City, and then they liked to watch the baby panda wake up at the San Diego Zoo.

HeatherWo: awww

ElisabetS: that is so kwel

JenW: lol -- Heather -- you have to check the times for the show. it is truly awesome

DonnaH: The Hermitage in St. Petersburg has an incredible museum site...one of the better ones.

FrankMD: Kelly, I think I saw a virtual tour for Yankee stadium that may be one that you could use for physical education, try [www.yankees.com](http://www.yankees.com)

HeatherWo: oh ok - well I got to the site and looked at the "tank" and that's all I'd seen

AlisonC: maybe I'm bias because I have a lot of art history experience, etc but some of the art museum sites seem pretty lame or behind on the virtual tour front, the Louvre site looks pretty cool though

DonnaH: you can chose items to see in 360.

MichaelPS: this is also good for students that cannot get out of their building. we got into distance conference calling/ and links because we have classes in the jail system.

DonnaH: I haven't been to the Louvre's site in about a year.

ElisabetS: I just went yesterday

HeatherWo: I think doing the virtual tours of museums would also bring in other cultures -

JenW: Would you like the Beethoven link??

MichaelPS: yes, very much so

JoanFB: Sure, Jen

DonnaH: I've done one on archeology...we did the one I showed you; did Chitchen Itza and Teotchilan

JenW: <http://www.lvbeethoven.com/MeetLvB/index.html>

JenW: the vft of the Louvre and also the Getty are very good

FrankMD: virtual tours of other countries allow you to bring the students to places that would not be affordable to bring them too on a real trip

KellyGuest1: Frank, the kids would probably really like it.

MichaelPS: they have one on the Vatican museum??

FrankMD: yes, I think they would like it, they can view things such as the locker room, and players dining area that they wouldn't be able to see otherwise

DonnaH: Not that I've come across, Michael...but there are some from them.

MichaelPS: great for our cultural class we teach. they can view first hand the different countries and the cuisine. I am sure.

HeatherWo: Michael - go see St Peter's in person it is WONDERFUL

DonnaH: \*chuckles\*

MichaelPS: will do, after I am principal.

DonnaH: The Forbidden City is one of the greater VFTs to see:)

MichaelPS: you have all these links on your web site Donna??

HeatherWo: I think this is also a good tool for those students who will probably never have the chance to travel

LucindGuest2: Or won't want to travel

DonnaH: <http://www.christusrex.org/www1/sistine/0-Tour.html> the Sistine Chapel

DonnaH: Most of them.

DonnaH: I'll give you a space to look as well...its where I have the "in the wings" links that haven't made it to the site yet...

AlisonC: it still freaks me out a bit. we spend too much time in front of screens.

DonnaH: <http://www.backflip.com/members/donnamh/7757233>

MichaelPS: that was great Donna, The pope said hello, btw.

DonnaH chuckles

DonnaH: You're right, Alison.

DonnaH: Which is why there is one more point to VFT's as good as any of them can be, they don't replace the real thing.

DonnaH: if it's a place you CAN go...then don't go to the VFT unless there's a specific educational purpose.

DonnaH: I haven't had the opportunity, but I could see having the students visit the VFT after, and make a list of things they DON'T have on it that they think the company/place should include.

HeatherWo: Michael this one has video - not pretty page to look at but has video <http://itdc.lbcc.ca.us/webengines/vaticanVT/INDEX.HTM>

DonnaH: or, if you're going to be short on time, to use as a planning guide...

DonnaH: I also have live web feed from the Wailing Wall



MichaelPS: I like that too. Donna

DonnaH: <http://www.aish.com/wallcam/>

MichaelPS: very very very interesting and informative, and all together great.

TonjaW: I think I will look for more of these. We live in a rural area where the students have to travel at least 3 hours for a museum that is interesting to them.

DonnaH: Between the website and the backflip folder I've given you; there are over 400...so you have a good bunch to start with \*laugh\*

FrankMD: Great session everyone. This opened my eyes to the possibilities of technology in the classroom. Technology could bring us to places in education where we have never been able to take students in the past. Italy, England, Africa, etc... I think this is great. The opportunities of VFT are endless and I will begin to explore such trips with my students immediately. Thank you Donna for your insight on this topic.. Sincerely Frank D

MichaelPS: new stuff, and it works, makes me very happy. and it doesn't take a major undertaking to do like the other stuff we are expected to do

DonnaH: and if its something you plan on taking the summer to look at, I'll be adding quite a few and re-researching for new ones.

AlisonC: these sessions always seem too short.

TonjaW: Donna, do you have other educational links on your site? Are they all VFT's?

JoanFB: Thanks, Donna, this has been an eye opener for me. Can you access these sites by typing in the web address or do you have to access them through the link? I didn't have any luck accessing the art sites session with BJ

DonnaH: "before everyone leaves, I would like to mention that there is going to be a session with Kim Foley, from Virtual Field Trips during our Summer Festival.

DonnaH: you can type the web address if you have problems clicking:)

DonnaH: <http://www.field-trips.org/>

JoanFB: Just the opposite, I had trouble typing in the address

MichaelPS: Donna, thank you very much. this was great.

DonnaH: they offer software to help you create your own field trips. definitely worth a look see:)

HeatherWo: Thank you Donna this was very informative and fun

DonnaH: Glad to help:)

DonnaH: Now...before we leave...was there someone who wanted to know my background in this?

LucindGuest2: Me

DonnaH: <http://www.geocities.com/dhendry26/resume.html>

DonnaH: it's my full resume. (I think) I might be missing my current assignment:)

DonnaH: But this at least, is one area I've been published in.

LucindGuest2: That was easy. I'm taking a course at SDSU online that is titled advanced Teaching with Technology.

HeatherWo: hmm sounds interesting Lucinda

LucindGuest2: The trouble is it seems to be more for credentialed teachers. I'm a corp. trainer

DonnaH: Does this help you then, Lucinda?

LucindGuest2: Not sure that the subject does but your links will complete the assignment.

DonnaH: feel free to email me if you think I can be of help:)

MichaelPS: thanks again Donna

LucindGuest2: Thanks for the insight and experience to chat.

DonnaH: \*smiles\*

DonnaH: Night everyone, and thank you for all your comments!