

Title of Session: WebTools - Teacher & Librarian Developed Websites

Moderator: Pam Berger

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Room: ASO

PamB: BJ, how would it be if I did the session in my office?

BJ: Hi, Bret!

BJ: Bret spent some time at the festival, I believe

BretBi: Hi, is the Web meeting in here or in the Hot Tub Conference room?

BJ: Let's let Pam decide, Bret

BretBi: Yes, I did ALL DAY, it was great!

PamB: I think I'll have the session in my office. I have the links featured.

BJ: great idea, Pam

BretBi: K

BJ: Bret do you know how to join someone?

PamB: I'll go now.

BretBi: it's been awhile

PamB left the room.

BJ: Bret, click on the ONLINE tab to the left of this chat window

BJ: then single click on PamB and click on the door

Room: PamB_Ofc

BJ joined the room.

PamB waves to BJ

PamB: Do you like my new photo?

BretBi: yes I was just admiring that

PamB: now that I learned from Gary how to easily upload them I can change it weekly!

BretBi: I like this new interface

BJ: lovely flowers. Where are the gardens?

PamB: Right outside of Amsterdam

BJ: ahhhh...nice!

BJ: I like it a lot too, Bret

BJ: were you a member of TII, Bret?

BretBi: yes

PamB: what grade do you teach?

BretBi: 4th

PamB: great age! They were my favorites when I was an elementary librarian.

PamB: A real transitional year.

BJ: Looks like Bret might get a private WebTools discussion, Pam. Could we start with introductions for the transcript?

PamB: I'm Pam Berger, An educational technology consultant and a librarian for many years in New York

BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In
BretBi: Bret Biornstad 4th Grade Fisher's Landing Elementary Vancouver, WA USA
PamB: Tonight I thought we could look at a few websites that were developed by classroom teachers and school librarians...
PamB: I directed an LSTA state project in which teachers and librarians choose a curriculum topic and then tried to figure out how to teach it in a constructivist manner on the web...
PamB: They learned how to use FrontPage 2002 and worked collaboratively to construct websites...
SusanR: ..interesting
PamB: I have listed three of them above in the featured items...
PamB: They had to use the web in a way that would require students to explore, think, evaluate, compare, contrast, etc...
PamB: any and all of the thinking skills...
PamB: in other words be active learners
PamB: Let's look at Seahorse Circle for 5 minutes and then come back and talk about it...but first
PamB: just let me give you a brief intro...
PamB: this is a site developed for special ed kids, middle school, and the kids did most of the work.
PamB: That's it...very brief!
PamB: ready to explore?
BretBi: k
SusanR: ready
PamB: OK just click on the link above and come back in 5 minutes.
BJ: I'm going to enter the url in the transcript: <http://www.libweb.org/sls18/>
BJ . o O (Seahorse Circle of Life A curriculum -based website developed collaboratively by a 5th grade science teacher and school librarian for a self contained class)
SusanR: What an engaging project for these students!!
PamB: Yes, it's incredible. the kids are sooo involved.
SusanR: Was this a yearlong project?
PamB: And I especially love the fact that it is being done with special ed kids. So often they are the last to ones to be invited to do a project such as this one.
PamB: yes, well we started the project in Sept but it took the first semester to design and build the site...
PamB: they used it with kids for about four months.
BretBi: It must be such a good motivator to see your work published so professionally on the web
PamB: Yes, and the parents got very involved also because of the web access.
SusanR: I agree... it's something they can display at a science fair as well... great for their self esteem
PamB: I had 40 teams of teachers and at the end of the year we had a celebration to share the work...
BretBi: much more effective communication than the old poster board
SusanR: Was it a costly venture? Did it involve any funding?
PamB: I asked these two teachers with their kids to present and they were wonderful...

PamB: it took a full week of practice before the kids felt comfortable enough to stand up in front of adults...but they did it!

BretBi: Also I am sure they are now lifelong stewards of the environment and think before acting

PamB: The kids wrote much of the information on the page and researched EVERYTHING about sea horses. Did you see the video?

BretBi: the videos are great

BretBi: was the research all web based?

PamB: They remained involved with the Seahorse project and continue to email the scientists

PamB: It was really the right combination of hands-on science, research, writing, multi-media production and web development....they used so many skills.

SusanR: This as an effective use of the web...project based learning....cross curricular as well.

PamB: That's what we were trying to achieve but it's not easy.

PamB: Let's look at the one, Welcome to my country. it's very different from the seahorses

BretBi: k

BJ: Welcome to my Country A curriculum website to teach 3rd graders about Nigeria

PamB: A 3rd grade teacher was told to teach her students about Nigeria and couldn't find very much info on their level...

BJ: <http://www.libweb.org/sls32/>

PamB: so she and the librarian decided to create this website and lead the students through the site.

PamB: Explore and come back in 5 minutes

BretBi: how did they conduct their research?

PamB: the teachers?

BretBi: was it the teachers or the kids?

PamB: The teachers researched and designed the Nigerian website for the kids.

BretBi: It is laid out very effectively

PamB: Most of the info on Nigeria was above the kids reading level or inappropriate.

PamB: A lot about the civil war.

PamB: There are a few pages that include interactive elements to encourage the kids to think about what they are reading...on the schools page (a threaded chat) and on the folktales pages (a fill-in-the-form).

BretBi: yes those were interesting.

PamB: They gave a lot of thought to designing the navigation. At first it was hyperlinked to all the pages by categories but they ended up changing it because they felt the kids needed to be guided through all the information in a specific sequence.

BretBi: You said most of what they found was about civil war so how did they end up finding appropriate information?

PamB: The group discussions were interesting because they asked the entire group what they thought.

PamB: They searched and they also contacted a friend of a friend who recently came from Nigeria and talked at length to him.

PamB: books were a primary source also

BretBi: something I forget sometimes is my audience yet I remind my students to keep it in mind but it is the same with whatever medium website, book what have you -- we must consider the audience or end-user

PamB: I can't believe it's already time..

PamB: If you would like to know more about the project or look at other websites that were developed go to www.libweb.org

SusanR: Totally engaging... the learning...

SusanR: wow!

PamB: Just remember these are all first attempts to be webmasters!

PamB: Thanks for coming!

BretBi: Thank you!

BJ: Thanks, Pam. We were having festival frenzy withdrawal

SusanR: Thank you Pam. This certainly is an inspiration.

PamB hugs BJ goodnight

BJ . o O (this stimulating presentation was just perfect)

PamB: thanks Susan!

BJ hugs Pam goodnight

SusanR: Goodnight all!

BretBi: Gotta work on my website; got some great ideas for the new year -- I love this job.

PamB smiles at Bret

BJ smiles. Have fun, Bret!