

Title of Session: Technology in the Classroom

Moderator: Donna Hendry

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Room: After School Online

BJ: Welcome to the Tech in the Classroom discussion.

BJ: If you are new to Tapped In chats, please read the 10 steps above this chat window

DonnaH: Let me start with Introductions:

DonnaH: My name is Donna Hendry, and I'm an educational consultant in CT, and your session leader:)

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

DonnaH: (please everyone speak up...a few of you I know, but not everyone)

RhondaDC: I'm a Computer Science teacher in Georgia.

LobnaK: my name is Lobna Kabbara I am working on my teacher's certification at University of Houston

JamesDB: Hi, I am a High school mathematics teacher in North Georgia

ShereeR: <-----artist and art educator in St. Petersburg, Florida. I teach at a special ed school for severely emotionally disturbed K-12

MirandaN: I'm Miranda and I am a preservice teacher at North Georgia

ReneF: I'm Rene and I'm an instructional Facilitator in Spartanburg South Carolina

BretB: I teach 4th grade in Vancouver, WA

JamesWr: hi James cate tech coordinator CHS Texas

DonnaH: (I think that's everyone)

DonnaH: For those of you who've attended my sessions before, we're going to do something a bit different.

DonnaH: I've been thinking lately (a dangerous endeavor, for those who don't know me)

DonnaH: Someone put a bee in my bonnet about how they think broad band will change internet use in education.

DonnaH: And we were discussing not only the bonuses that can occur, but we also started discussing how could it pose problems.

DonnaH: The internet is all about information, and information retrieval.

DonnaH: what makes the internet feasible are search engines.

DonnaH: (everyone with me, following me so far?)

RhondaDC: Do you think one search engine is better than another?

DonnaH: Well, see Rhonda, I'm starting to wonder if the search engine itself, with the advent of mass broadband use might have become antiquated.

DonnaH: Let me pose this problem.

DonnaH: Everyone open a window with their favorite search engine.

LeslieG: I'm just catching up..I have a search engine page open

DonnaH: Bret and Sheree, if you're having problems opening up a search engine, just follow us:)

BretB: got one open

DonnaH: Okay, I want everyone to type in "lessons"

ShereeR: I opened the search engine but lost this page. Back now
JamieMP: Ok, I have one
DonnaH: When you get your answer, write down how many hits you get.
DonnaH: (and what search engine, just for giggles)
LeslieG: 13,800,000
MirandaN: 13,800,000
LeslieG: google
RhondaDC: 13,700,000
LobnaK: 9,240,000 from yahoo
BretB: 13,800,000 google
DonnaH: (wonders if everyone used google)
RhondaDC: Google
MirandaN: google
JamesDB: 13,800,000 google
JamieMP: 12,700,00 google
JamesWr: 13800000
DonnaH: *chuckles*
DonnaH: Okay. Now, yes, I gave you a very common, oversimplified search...
JamesWr: doesn't yahoo use google
DonnaH: yeah, it does, James...interesting difference, huh?
DonnaH: But who can look through nearly 14 million hits?
JamesDB: 9,240,000 on yahoo
LeslieG: NOT ME!!
LobnaK: me neither
RhondaDC: I don't have that kind of time
DonnaH: and what if the page you REALLY need is # 13,799,999
LeslieG: if it was I just wouldn't find it!!
DonnaH: Okay. so we understand how to narrow our search.
DonnaH: (Exactly, Leslie)
BretB: even 100 would be enough
DonnaH: say, I dunno. Tree lessons
LeslieG: 1,270,000
JamesDB: I rarely make it to 100 before redefining the search
LeslieG: same here..
DonnaH: okay. a million and a quarter.
MirandaN: same here
LobnaK: 865,000
BretB: 1290000
RhondaDC: I usually try to do a pretty specific search.
JamieMP: same as well
DonnaH: Now, what if I need high school specific, or elementary.
DonnaH: Right. we can do pretty specific.
BillGst8: same here
DonnaH: But even specific can spit out in the thousands.
MirandaN: that's the truth
RhondaDC: Definitely too many to read through.

DonnaH: And a GOOD portion of that is people who are reinventing the wheel.

DonnaH: You can only get so specific.

DonnaH: Now we have this problem NOW.

LeslieG: yeah I need an internet-sifter

JamesDB: Advanced search doesn't even help

RhondaDC: You're right.

DonnaH: they are suggesting that with extensive use of broadband, the internet will once again start growing exponentially.

LeslieG: great so we'll get 70 billion next time! yikes

DonnaH: We'll be able to access things faster, but that means more items will be posted, and with more information, it's even harder to find what we're looking for.

JamesDB: So do we depend on each other even more for resources?

MirandaN: That's not good.

BillGst8: could you briefly describe broadband?

DonnaH: Broadband is simply high speed access.

DonnaH: its supposed to be many times faster, and more stable.

MirandaN: Thank you for explaining.

DonnaH: If you have cable modem, or dsl, you're considered broadband.

DonnaH: (and of course, I suspect even that is in its infancy.)

DonnaH: So I gather you all agree with the problem.

BillGst8: yes!

DonnaH: But now, what sorts of solutions can we possibly create?

JamieMP: yeah

BretB: Yes, I am beginning to see....

LobnaK: same here

JamesDB: This site is a good start!

ReneF: Will we see subject specific search engines

DonnaH: Creating your own list just isn't enough.

RhondaDC: My cable modem is great. But I'd like to be able to find good information without having to sift through all the garbage.

DonnaH: it's that whole reinventing the wheel that is adding to the problem.

DonnaH: *snicker* that's a WHOLE other session, Rhonda:)

ReneF: Whatever happened to the second internet I used to hear about/

RhondaDC: Tell me when!

DonnaH: Even sifting through the good information is a problem.

RhondaDC: How true!

ShereeR: Well, I don't think broadband is really the issue. I think if one knows how to do a specific search, I don't think it broadband is that much of an issue.

MirandaN: I agree

RhondaDC: You're right/

DonnaH: The whole point of bringing in broadband Sheree, is that it is going to make the whole mess grow exponentially.

ReneF: Understanding how to do a specific search for young children is difficult

DonnaH: if you do a specific search...even one that is advanced, you're still going to end up with thousands of hits.

JamesWr: access to broadband allows more posts more post=more hits

JamesDB: It would be nice to partition the whole thing, but unrealistic

RhondaDC: Even specific searches give you more sites than you have the time to look at.

DonnaH: (thanks James, that is exactly it)

DonnaH: Is it something that can be fixed in a search engine?

JamieMP: how so

DonnaH: or is it something else entirely that we aren't seeing?

RhondaDC: Not sure.

MirandaN: I don't know

JamesDB: It seems that it may take a community of people searching, sifting and organizing it.

ShereeR: Well, that has happened in the past ten years. I remember when Dogpile came out, it was a wonder. However now with Google, if you know how to do a tidy search, you get valuable hits right off. With the proliferation of broadband, there are sure to be new, better search mechanisms that will evolve just as Google came on the scene.

LobnaK: I think that with the growth of the internet by the minute we will not find a solution to this problem

DonnaH: "tidy search" I haven't heard that term before, Sheree.

JamesWr: it is the nature of the beast. . . that we did not have 10 years ago

BillGst8: by using " before and after what I am searching often simplifies the search for me

MirandaN: I use quotation marks in my searching as well

DonnaH: that does, but it is usually still too large.

DonnaH: (I always do)

ShereeR: I just made it up this moment

RhondaDC: Yes, I have found the " before and after the words do help sometimes.

DonnaH: or use +

DonnaH: but I often find I get things that have nothing to do with what I'm looking for.

BillGst8: would that be using the + before and after or just before or just after?

RhondaDC: Haven't tried +

JamesWr: what's the diff between 10000 and 1000000 in a search. . . will you view even 1000 pages in a search?

DonnaH: *AH* okay. I thought I had just missed something big.

DonnaH: Actually, James, I have.

DonnaH: and usually, I find the most interesting, new or different stuff about 3/4's through.

JamesWr: hats off

JamesDB: These are all things available in the advanced searches, but often return too many for time to permit looking at them all.

DonnaH: (yes I am crazy.)

MirandaN: I never make it that far

DonnaH: Exactly.

JamesDB: Wow 1000!

DonnaH: (actually, I've done worse.)

JamesDB: Me neither

DonnaH: I think the biggest one I did was looking through one that was 3400....took me 2 weeks.

LobnaK: wow !!

RhondaDC: You must have really needed that information!

DonnaH: (electronic field trips, or virtual field trips...don't remember)

JamieMP: How do you have the time?

MirandaN: I am not that persistent

DonnaH: I was cataloguing.

BretB: cataloguing?

ReneF: Was there anything of value on 3399?

DonnaH: *pbth*

DonnaH: the last oh, 40 or so were useless, copies or other peoples' lists.

DonnaH: but yeah, I'd say all but the last few pages had at least SOMETHING I hadn't found before.

DonnaH: which is why it's difficult.

RhondaDC: I find a lot of duplicate information. Looks like they copied and pasted from one to another.

DonnaH: and some of the most unique stuff like I said, is buried...because it doesn't get listed higher up.

LeslieG: I've had that same problem Rhonda

JamesDB: How much was irrelevant?

DonnaH: So if I'm looking for something very specific, it might slip right past me.

JamesDB: Sometimes I get stuff that is not even in the ball park

DonnaH: Irrelevant? I think more the problem is as Rhonda says, in duplicate info.

ReneF: what about children using the internet?

DonnaH: As far as searching?

ReneF: Teachers are finding it hard to search. my state expects second graders to do searches.

BretB: So how do we create a partition so to speak as James mentioned earlier?

JamesDB: Type in the wrong thing and they can find some scary things

GregWa: I don't allow my students to do much searching anymore unless

DonnaH: Do very controlled searches.

GregWa: we are specifically learning about searching.

LeslieG: good call there's no telling what will pop up

DonnaH: And do the searches before them. and pick something that you know will be pretty exact.

RhondaDC: I have found some totally inappropriate things out there while looking for completely innocent stuff.

GregWa: I prefer to find some suitable sites and then make a list.

BillGst8: The further I get into the search, the more I find sights that no longer exist

DonnaH: Which means doing the searching yourself, and giving them the proper search words.

MirandaN: That is what the teacher I am observing does

GregWa: It isn't ideal, but for younger students....

DonnaH: I usually find I've done the searching, and lead them through the sites.

JamesDB: It would be better to find the site your self, put them on your page, and let them scan your page.

DonnaH: But the filters on the school computers are so tight...they can't get half the stuff they need anyway.

RhondaDC: I find some good sites with really valuable information on them and put the link on my Intranet page for my students to view.

LobnaK: I agree with that

ReneF: Using a webquest has helped but our standards still say that they can conduct research

GregWa: I will even build my list onto a web page that I create so the students at least feel that they are doing something on the internet.

MirandaN: That is a good idea, Rhonda

BillGst8: the link is a great way to keep students on task

LeslieG: and make sure they find real sites that still exist

DonnaH: they are doing research, Rene...you're just controlling what's in the library:)

RhondaDC: That's what I do and that way I don't have to turn them loose on the internet. I teach all teenage boys!

GregWa: There is nothing saying that students can't search AFTER they have been through some guided practice.

DonnaH: That is great Greg for homework too, Greg.

JamesDB: If you find a site that is inaccessible behind the filter, your tech people can let it through.

DonnaH: depends on the filter and your tech.

GregWa: I just find that too much time is wasted looking for sites like www.density.com

GregWa: which doesn't necessarily even exist,

DonnaH: right now, we have ONE tech for 8 buildings (something like *thinks* maybe 4000 students?)

JamesWr: yes and as a "tech guy" your day is over full

ShereeR: Yes, our filter is controlled by the county. Our school has no control over it.

BillGst8: I was able to get access through the filter and as long as I am available the students can go to places

JamesDB: That's why I am glad our tech guy is my GOOD friend

DonnaH: We had a hellish time when we were doing health reports.

RhondaDC: Most students think that every site has .com at the end. Try typing in whitehouse.com instead of whitehouse.gov and see what you get!! Some of my students made that mistake once and I was shocked!

GregWa: Our school division actually doesn't filter a whole lot. Apparently they have an alarm though that will sound when sites are accessed.

DonnaH: Because even the "clean" information was blocked out

MirandaN: I have seen that mistake made also

BillGst8: try National Geographics!

GregWa: Then the school is phoned and we deal with the culprits.

JamesDB: So we filter too much or not enough.

DonnaH: So we are saying, as teachers, we have to control the environment until we/they find a way to make it more stable?

GregWa: If you are generating a list, couldn't you have sites unblocked?

ShereeR: Donna, we can't even get Google images at school.

JamesDB: Which is worse?

ReneF: That would be a great deterrent! A loud alarm sounds

ShereeR: The filter blocks out that portion of google.com

DonnaH: Sheree--EW!

GregWa: I didn't say it was loud.

RhondaDC: Our 'watch guard' software prints a report each day of inappropriate sites that were visited. Give student' name, computer #, site, and how long they were on that site.

JamesDB: That would be great though!

JamesWr: it is tough words like young and teen gets blocked we do our best but there is too much and the bad guys are good at being bad

DonnaH: well, I know things like geocities and tripod are automatically filtered out.

ShereeR: It is SO frustrating because it is so great to use google to find pictures to refer to while in art

DonnaH: they are too easy to change the whole site on.

JamesDB: Do they have logon ids Rhonda?

GregWa: I really think that the best thing is to just make sure the kids are supervised

RhondaDC: yes

DonnaH: that sounds cool, Rhonda...but sounds labor intensive.

JamesDB: That is great!

JamesWr: SUPERVISED. . . THANKS

GregWa: As long as students are supervised properly, there should be very little inappropriate use

MirandaN: I agree, Greg

LobnaK: I agree with Greg

JamesDB: Yeah, but a great way for the system to cya!

DonnaH: depends on who's the teacher in the lab/room.

DonnaH: many teachers aren't aware, or forget that you can hide windows behind others.

GregWa: Each teacher is responsible when they are there.

DonnaH: and if you minimize the tool bar, you don't SEE They have others open.

RhondaDC: It's really not labor intensive. The report prints automatically and you just have to see which students are yours.

GregWa: I don't allow them to hide the toolbars.

GregWa: If I can't see it, I am suspicious.

DonnaH: I had a student who LOVED to open two windows, one that he was playing games on, and the other was the work.

JamesDB: Yeah, we have a teacher with 30 computers in his room and he lets them chat, play violent games, etc.

LobnaK: that's a good idea

GregWa: That is the teacher's responsibility then.

BillGst8: but as you turn your back to assist another student, click and they are in places where they should not be and when you turn back click and they are back

RhondaDC: 30 computers--I only have 18 and that's bad enough!

DonnaH: oh, _I_ am...but there are many teachers who aren't tech savvy, and aren't aware of the ways to get around the rules as it were.

ShereeR: Greg, that is a good idea in theory, but a "mistake" can happen SO FAST. I remember before we had the filtering system a little boy in the tech lab typed in "Dolphin". He clicked one of the links and some nude woman popped up with some lame title like "Dolphin Girl". The teacher couldn't get over there fast enough to shut the screen down before half the class was ooing and ahhhhing.

JamesDB: But who is watching the teachers then?

GregWa: I don't say mistakes don't happen. The kids can see a lot on TV as well.

DonnaH: Lets save the filter discussion for another session, and return back to the original topic.

GregWa: I came late, what was the original topic. (sheepishly)

DonnaH: By creating our own lists...are we adding to the problem?

DonnaH: more for people to have to search through by reinventing the wheel?

GregWa: But don't you preview traditional resources?

DonnaH: (Greg: we're discussing the inherent problems with search engines and how it will be changing)

GregWa: Thanks Donna

DonnaH: certainly...

DonnaH: but traditional resources aren't always what we need, or all we need.

JamesDB: Our own lists can narrow down the searches, but leave our others.

DonnaH: I use PBS all the time...but I don't live there.

GregWa: But we only narrow the search to start.

DonnaH: And having our own lists, online, creates more pages, that will pop up next time someone else does the search you did in order to create the list.

DonnaH: (its sort of this vicious circle)

DonnaH: Now, don't get me wrong, I'm not saying not to make lists.

GregWa: You don't have to post the list.

GregWa: Just make it accessible on your school's net

JamesDB: Maybe a search engine that will filter out the sites in your history file.

DonnaH: so by taking advantage of the school's intranet (if you are fortunate enough to have one)

DonnaH: So, personalize your search engine?

JamesDB: At least then you won't have to sort through the same stuff in the next search

DonnaH: either takes into consideration your list pages, bookmarks, etc?

GregWa: I create a simple single web page which I place in a folder that all student have access too

JamesDB: Yeah, why not?

DonnaH: (brilliant idea)

BillGst8: how often do the sites on that page cease to exist?

JamesDB: Thanks.

LobnaK: I think that's a good idea

ReneF: can they get access from home Greg?

MirandaN: That is a good idea

DonnaH: (I'd love to have an auto removal of any links that die.)

JamesDB: Can I copyright that idea!

GregWa: no, unfortunately not, but you could e-mail the page to them (just don't include graphics)

DonnaH: You have a page, and when a link is dead, after so many clicks, it automatically removes the html

MirandaN: Sometimes, you don't know when links die because your list is so full

JamesDB: The code shouldn't be that bad.

BillGst8: about how many sites do you keep on the page?

ReneF: I like that idea that limits the use of internet resources to those that know how to use it

DonnaH: Miranda, that is when you run toolbox on the page.

DonnaH: it will tell you which links are dead.

MirandaN: Thanks, Donna

DonnaH: (webpage toolbox? something like that...webmechanics...I THINK that's what its called)

DonnaH: Rene, so different levels within the net?

RhondaDC: I try to put links concerning what we are covering in class on my Intranet pages, and update them at least monthly,.

GregWa: Oh Oh, sounds like elitism?

JamesDB: Back to partitioning the net.

ReneF: I see the divide growing at my school those who are savvy and those who aren't

JamesDB: Me too!

DonnaH: of teachers or students, Rene?

JamesDB: Both!

JamesWr: both

ReneF: Sadly of teachers

GregWa: I think the biggest problem is the teachers.

BillGst8: more of teachers

DonnaH: (I'm still surrounded by teachers who have NO tech savvy. I don't think there is a single one in my daughter's school.)

JamesDB: There is almost a greater divide amongst teachers.

GregWa: If teachers are comfortable the students will become so.

ReneF: In my position I see some of every class room. some kids get lots of tech and some get none.

MirandaN: I was in a classroom where the students knew more about the computer than the teacher

BillGst8: the younger teachers seem to be more tech savvy yet some of the older ones are learning

RhondaDC: In Georgia now, we have INTech that all new teachers have to go through to get their certification, and our school is going to require all of us older teachers to go through it too.

GregWa: I am working with an older teacher. He is willing, but his mind is weak.

JamesDB: But INTECH is different at different places.

LobnaK: I am currently taking a "Technology in the classroom " class

DonnaH: well, that's half the problem with up here...they aren't enforcing or requiring, or even in most cases offering professional development in technology.

DonnaH: just give 'em the computers.

ShereeR: WAIT A MINUTE NOW. That is just not true. The average age of our tech committee is around 47 years old. The young teachers at our school are NOT the movers and shakers in technology.

ReneF: I think many of them are overwhelmed! we have a smart board this year and only 3 teacher of 40 use it. they are all impressed but intimidated!

BillGst8: I am working with an older teacher who early this year did his tests and quizzes on the typewriter, but he is slowly learning

JamesDB: I am in Ga to and some of our teachers that have completed the training are still clueless.

DonnaH: my tech in the classroom class that was required was 1 credit, and an incredibly easy A. (which was...7 years ago?)

GregWa: PD is offered all the time, but it is so basic.

DonnaH: *drools* I want a smart board.

BillGst8: did the older teachers learn?

JamesDB: They are refining the process, but they can't keep up with the tech

RhondaDC: If they are still clueless, they didn't try very hard. I have only seen portions of it, but it sounds like it's going to be a great help. I'll find out this summer.

JamesDB: We have one in our department. It is COOL!

JamesWr: my tech director is 56 and I am 37 I give two pro dev a year to teachers over tech

GregWa: Are they progressive?

JamesWr: older do learn but the younger already have it

GregWa: I mean do they build on what they learned last time?

JamesDB: I hope it works well for you guys. We had some that did well.

ShereeR: Some younger teachers do not already have it. That is not necessarily true either. I am a Master Content Mentor and some of our beginning teachers know how to turn on the computer, play some games, but not much else.

DonnaH: (time's almost up guys)

BillGst8: so Donna, what is your answer to the search engine problem?

ReneF: Yeah

RhondaDC: I find that people will learn only what they want to learn how to do.

JamesWr: back to search. most often hit gets to the top of the list we just need to hope that people access the best sites for the key words

DonnaH: Bill, I'm really not sure there is one:)

DonnaH: Its actually been bugging me since I realized it was a problem

BillGst8: What do you suggest for those with not much time

ReneF: Creative teachers will come up with solutions like they always do!

RhondaDC: True.

DonnaH: Cooperating with others.

DonnaH: Seems simple, but it makes a huge difference.

DonnaH: one person can't go through it, but split it up between like minded people...

DonnaH: skip pages.

JamesDB: Exactly, the professional communities must take care of themselves.

BillGst8: is there a place where teachers can access which gives suggestions about which sites to look into about certain subjects?

DonnaH: (here? *chuckle*)

JamesDB: NCTM and the like can help

DonnaH: other major companies do as well, such as Discovery, PBS and Scholastic.

DonnaH: Classroom Connect and Scholastic both have boards that discuss things like it.

ReneF: Thanks Donna

DonnaH: I find listservs can be very good. a bit slower...but good.

ShereeR: Sure Bill. Certain educational portals have specific pages devoted to particular subjects. Or pages like Yahoo!igans has preselected web pages which come up in a search.

JamesDB: It takes a long time to find those kind of resources, but good ones are definitely worth returning to

DonnaH: (times up everyone!)

MirandaN: Thank you for your time, Donna.

JamesWr: thanks for the topic. . .enjoyed it.

DonnaH: Not a problem.

DonnaH: I appreciate the input!

RhondaDC: Thanks Donna. Enjoyed it.

BillGst8: Thank you Donna

LobnaK: thanks Donna I enjoyed the discussion

ShereeR: Thanks Donna

JamesDB: Yes, thanks for the topic. It was a good one.

DonnaH: Just wish I had better answers:)

JamesDB: Have a good evening all.

DonnaH: You, Too, James

BJ waves goodnight

DonnaH: night BJ:)