

Title of Session: Technology in the Classroom - Online Resources for Students

Moderator: Donna Hendry

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Room: After School Online Room

BJ: We usually start all the discussions in Tapped In with introductions.

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

DonnaH: Well, let me start first by saying thanks for waiting! My name is Donna Hendry, and I'm your Tech in the Classroom Session leader. I'm an educational consultant in CT

BJ: o O (if you are new to Tapped In, click on the Actions drop down menu in the top right of the chat window and click on DETACH to make your chat window larger and easier to read)

NgocLamD: I am a pre-service teacher at Houston, TX

LindaJM: I am also a pre-service teacher at the University of Houston.

KimberlyJF: I teach Psychology and Spanish in Lake Charles, LA 11-12 grades

SandyT: I am the IT instructor at Durango High School in Durango, CO

NgocLamD: Hi Linda, is that you??

LindaJM: Yes.

NgocLamD smiles

MichaelWL: I am an assistant principal from Mayfair High School in Lakewood California

DonnaH: *chuckles* quite a few people from your program have popped into my sessions:)

DonnaH: Another incredibly diverse group!

BrianMus joined the room.

DonnaH: Now, usually, I don't set a topic. I've found that invariably, the group I end up with is totally opposite what I had originally planned. So let me first begin by asking is there anything that has specifically thrown you for a loop, that you want to know about, or just want to study?

DonnaH: (we've just begun, Brian)

DonnaH: (welcome)

BrianMus: Thank you!

ElizabetDF joined the room.

KimberlyJF: I would like to know about more sites that my students could use educationally. Like TrackStar

NgocLamD: I don't have a specific question yet, but will ask as we go along

MarkFir joined the room.

BJ: Hi, Mark. We're just getting started.

BJ: Donna is the discussion leader and just asked everyone if they have a topic they would like to discuss

DonnaH: So we are looking for online programs to assist? that I can help with.

MarkFir: I was in the wrong place. I was saying that we don't have much going on in terms of technology in the classroom due to the pressures of No Child Left Behind.

KimberlyJF: Great! I was just introduced to TrackStar in a graduate course and I love it. I want more, more, more.

NgocLamD: Donna, I want to know how to create a Virtual Classroom Tour online

SandyT: . o O (trackstar??)

DonnaH: Usually, I'd send you to a webpage; however my OWN website is temporarily down.

DonnaH: (good thing i have the page on my hard drive, or I'd really be hurting right now *laugh*)

DonnaH: Track Star:

DonnaH: <http://trackstar.hprtec.org/>

KimberlyJF: Sandy, Go to Google then, Trackstar (first website listed) and type in 193798 and you can see my example.

SandyT: thanks

KimberlyJF: Sandy, Make sure you view it in frames.

DonnaH: another free service similar to this, Bj and I both use extensively...

DonnaH: Backflip.

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

DonnaH: (my contents page)

KimberlyJF: Thank you, I will check it out.

DonnaH: It allows you to add "bookmarks/favorites" from any computer, and you can have private as well as public folders.

JavierA joined the room.

SandyT: another is Ikeepbookmarks.com

DonnaH: being able to add from any computer is a huge benefit, since you can do from home, classroom, lab, where ever.

DonnaH: I've heard of it, Sandy, but haven't investigated it yet.

NgocLamD: will you please briefly introduce trackstar to me? like how to use or what to use it for? etc..

DonnaH: (I've used backflip for what...2-3 years now?) and BJ has used it longer.

BJ nods

BJ: . o O (Jeff Cooper uses ikeepbookmarks)

DonnaH: Kimberly, would you like to explain TrackStar? I only have a passing knowledge of it.

KimberlyJF: Sure.

DonnaH: Does he? *huh*

DonnaH: (still with us, Kim?)

KimberlyJF: TrackStar is a site that allows one to create a collection of useful websites and the creator (you) adds questions called annotations for the students to answer or think about. You can type in a subject such as World History and it will give you sites that are already made.

NgocLamD: cool

DonnaH: So the bonus of Trackstar over a basic bookmarking system is that you can add questions?

KimberlyJF: It seems really complicated but once you use it, you are hooked. Try it out.

DonnaH: do the students submit the answers electronically? or write them down? or are they self correcting?

KimberlyJF: I don't know what basic bookmarking is.

KimberlyJF: The students write them down.

DonnaH: like the backflip site I suggested.

KimberlyJF: Will have to check it out.

NgocLamD: what grade levels are able to use this website?

KimberlyJF: Any and all!!!

KimberlyJF: PreK-Grad school

NgocLamD) *cool*

LindaJM: Do you have to register for this program or is there a fee?

KimberlyJF: Can you explain backflip a little?

KimberlyJF: This program is completely free. You just have to register.

DonnaH: (actually, I had *chuckle*)

DonnaH: Backflip is a free program that allows you to "bookmark" webpages and organize them.

KimberlyJF: Sorry, slow learner?

DonnaH: they are online, so you can retrieve them from anywhere...

BJ . o O (here's one of Sue Roseman's tracks that she used for her K-3 Resources:

http://trackstar.hprtec.org/main/track_frames.php3?track_id=194126&nocache=544334271)

DonnaH: and since they are online...you can add to them from anywhere.

NgocLamD: you're not the only one Kim, I didn't catch it either

DonnaH: you can make private folders or public folders.

KimberlyJF: Great. Sounds a lot like the same.

DonnaH: and you can add your own notes, and such on each site...but there isn't a specific place for questions.

DonnaH: and it isn't meant just for education, so you'd still have to watch where students went in the program.

ElizabethDF: good tip

KimberlyJF: So true. I made my own and my students will only go there.

DonnaH: How familiar is everyone with Discovery Channels' quizmaker?

SandyT: I just did a search on TrackStar for the keyword *computers* and got 205 tracks.

DonnaH: (don't want to waste people's time if they already know it)

LindaJM: I am not familiar with it

BJ: the advantage is not just that you can add bookmarks from any computer, but also that you can access your bookmarks from any computer

KimberlyJF: What does "quizmaker do?"

NgocLamD: I don't know about it either

DonnaH: *jumps up with glee*

DonnaH: oh, it makes life so easy.

BrianMus: I'm not familiar with anything you've talked about.

DonnaH: You can create t/f, multiple choice, etc. tests.

DarleneO joined the room.

KimberlyJF: Are there specific topics? Can you choose?

DonnaH: when you input them, you give the correct answers.

DonnaH: (you input....though you can wander other teachers' tests as well)

DonnaH: BUT the bonus? you tell the system what to count as what (as far as grading) students can take the test online, and the CORRECTED test will be emailed to whatever address you gave them.

ElizabetD joined the room.

KimberlyJF: Wow! It sounds like something that I would really use. Is it free?

DonnaH: <http://school.discovery.com/customclassroom/about.html>

DonnaH: (I don't discuss things that cost money *laugh* I'm broke)

DonnaH: so yes, it's free.

DonnaH: and it's been around for quite a while.

KimberlyJF: Aren't we all broke, after all we are teachers.

DonnaH: I like it as well, because at the time I used it heavily, I had many students who had ...attendance difficulties...

NgocLamD: agree

DonnaH: so they could take the test from home.

DonnaH: (try being a substitute...there's a monstrous difference)

KimberlyJF: That would be really great for make up quizzes as well.

DonnaH: exactly.

DarleneO: Donna what are we talking about

SandyT: Quia Quizzes is another online quiz and activity maker...very good...especially neat activities, but must subscribe to the service (\$50/year)...not free though

DonnaH: We are talking about Discovery Channel's quizmaker.

LindaJM: I can't believe I haven't heard of it before from other teachers.

MarkFir: There

NgocLamD: me neither

DonnaH: I've used Quia before it went to the pay system. Its good...but why pay, when I can get the same basic thing for free from Discovery channel?

JavierA: I have not heard of these either.

KimberlyJF: That is what makes this such a great medium.

DonnaH: you've never seen the puzzlemaker?

DonnaH: (discovery channel again)

NgocLamD: not yet

KimberlyJF: No, not yet.

DonnaH: the cross word puzzle builder is great for vocabulary quizzes.

NgocLamD: but I will try all these websites after this session

NgocLamD smiles

KimberlyJF is getting excited.

DonnaH: the Puzzle maker link is located in the purple table on the left if you clicked the discovery channel link.

MarkFir: There's another service that's free and online to make up tests, called ExamView Pro. They give you a 1 month free subscription for online tests and quizzes. You can see examples at ExamView.com

DonnaH: Personally, I hate one month free subscriptions...I never know when it would be useful to me, or how useful....but that's me.:)

KimberlyJF: That sounds really nice for homebound students.

SusanaRi joined the room.

DonnaH: Would easy flashcard creators be of interest to anyone?

NgocLamD: sure

KimberlyJF: Can you explain what it is?

SandyT: I use Exam view pro and love it...I have the software and have it on my local network

LindaJM: I would be interested in flashcard creators.

MarkFir: In fact, we've been very successful at making up databases and tests. The full year subscription is at most \$99. It's very user friendly. You just import text and graphics from almost anywhere and you've got an instant database that creates tests in a flash.

DonnaH: <http://flashcardexchange.net/>

KimberlyJF: I will check that one out too.

DonnaH: they have a ton already created, or you can use their generator to create your own.

KimberlyJF: How would the students use it?

NgocLamD: is there any website that create calendar or chart, bulletin boards that are free?

DonnaH: use it to create study cards, make projects...

DonnaH: *thinks*

KimberlyJF: oO projects????

KimberlyJF: I love projects.

NgocLamD: well, like for use in the classroom

DonnaH: I can't think of any, Ngoc...but...that doesn't mean there aren't any.

DonnaH: I've used them to make game cards, review games...

KimberlyJF: Ngoc, can you use your microsoft office to do that, then put it on a website?

ElizabetD: Has anyone had any experience with gradebook software, especially using a PDA?

DonnaH: (grading is one thing I'm really backward on, I have to admit.)

KimberlyJF: I use GradeQuick and I love it.

KimberlyJF: We also use Edline.

MarkFir: I prefer making up my own with a spreadsheet program. I particularly like Quattro Pro.

DonnaH: (I still use excel, so I'm with you Mark)

SandyT: I used to use Thinkwave but not sure if it is still around; you could post grades online, password protected, for both students and parents

NgocLamD: I'd done it in excel

KimberlyJF: Thinkwave and Edline sound very much alike.

NgocLamD: I like to makeup my own formula rather use that already made

DonnaH: Okay here's another good one.

MarkFir: I remember a program called Teacher Toolbox. I think it was either free or very inexpensive.

KimberlyJF: That would be ideal but I never learned Excel... yet.

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

SandyT: <http://www.thinkwave.com/>

DonnaH: (heard of it, Mark. I think it was inexpensive)

DonnaH: there is a great tutorial online for using Excel for grading, Kim...

SandyT: Thinkwave costs (the software and posting online) however, it is a great program...parents loved it

DonnaH: (looks for the url)

KimberlyJF: Thanks Donna, I love tutorials.

DonnaH: Educational press (what I just posted the url for) allows you to create things like bingo boards, flashcards, study guides, etc.

KimberlyJF: Parents really love Edline too because they can check their child's grade without having to ask their child.

DonnaH: there are two tutorials for the Excel program:

KimberlyJF: Bingo boards would be great for Spanish.

DonnaH: <http://www.pitt.edu/~edindex/OfficeXPTutorials/Lesson4XP.pdf>

DonnaH: and

KimberlyJF: Thank you, Donna

MarkFir: If you want a tutorial on Excel, Microsoft has a good one free and online at their site, Microsoft.com

KimberlyJF: How are you getting the links to appear as links?

DonnaH: <http://www.pitt.edu/~edindex/OfficeXPTutorials/Lesson5XP.pdf>

LindaJM: These are some very useful sites. Thanks.

DonnaH: Yes, but it isn't geared toward teachers, Mark.

DonnaH: (this is geared specifically with grading and the teacher in mind.)

ElizabetD: Thanks,,,I'll check out all those sites....

DonnaH: The author is an Ed Tech teacher in PA.

DonnaH: (professor rather)

DonnaH: (looks through her goody bag...

DonnaH: How about survey creators?

KimberlyJF: I can see that I am going to spend some time in tutorials

KimberlyJF: I could use survey creators for Psychology.

NgocLamD: have anyone successful in communicate with parents via webpage/internet?

KimberlyJF: NgocLamD, I am going to attempt that soon.

DonnaH: <http://www.zoomerang.com/login/index.zgi>

JavierA: Through our webpage, parents have a direct link to our e-mail addresses.

DonnaH: For free, each survey can have up to 30 questions and will give you back a maximum of 100 responses.

SandyT: I like Zoomerang....but it costs now doesn't it?

DonnaH: (I have. set up a class page, with email links...including all notes given in class, and links to websites the class visited)

KimberlyJF: That sounds perfect for so many uses. My mind is spinning.

DonnaH: if you need more than 100 responses, then yes.

MarkFir: Kimberly, you do get so excited.

KimberlyJF: What can I say, I love technology and learning.

DonnaH: and...I have to admit. *chuckle* there is a second one. I'd be more likely to use two companies, than pay for it from one *laugh*

DonnaH: here is the other:

DonnaH: <http://www.surveykey.com/>

DonnaH: We've actually had the owner of this one on TI in one of my sessions before.

NgocLamD: same here Kim ... I will be busy with the computer this weekend... checking out these websites

NgocLamD smiles

KimberlyJF: Is there any way to put a powerpoint presentation on the websites bc that is how I give my notes.

MarkFir: Wow, Survey Key looks great. I can think of many uses. Thanks.

DonnaH: you only get 50 free on that one; but I know he is very interested in the educational uses...and might be talked into more (or a special rate) if you were to email.

JavierA: Just checked it out too, I can really use it for my research

ElizabetD: I was in technology for MANY years before just coming to teaching this year, and I really enjoy how educators have found practical and exciting uses for technology.....

MarkFir: Yes, you can do that. I just put on a powerpoint presentation on our school website. You just download it as a ppt file and make certain that you also download the folder that contains all the graphic files as well.

KimberlyJF: Elizabeth, I agree. I just wish more teachers used it. The students really love the change.

DonnaH: The next one has some hokey generators on it...but it has one incredibly cool one...

DonnaH: http://www.teach-nology.com/web_tools/materials/

KimberlyJF: Mark, Do you insert it like a graphic or is it something else?

DonnaH: take a look at the timeline generator.

ElizabetD: Kimberly, we had a off day the other day, and there were more kids in the computer labs than there were in the gym playing basketball.....

NgocLamD: Donna, what is that?

DonnaH: a time line generator?

ElizabetDF: I love the footprints on the vertical time line

KimberlyJF: Elizabeth, What grades were they in?

NgocLamD: sorry, but I don't know how to use it!

ElizabetD: Kimberly, 9-12 grade kids on an Indian reservation...

DonnaH: http://teachers.teach-nology.com/web_tools/materials/timelines/

MarkFir: No, you just treat it as if it were an html file. When someone accesses it, the browser automatically downloads it for viewing. You must choose to "publish it" from the menu. You can also save it as an html file while publishing, but I suggest using ppt as the suffix.

DonnaH: you got to there, right, Ngoc?

KimberlyJF: Donna, I try to go to these links and it won't go. How do I do it?

DonnaH: you clicked it?

KimberlyJF: Yes, I have a pop-up blocker and it shows that. Do you think that is why?

MarkFir: Kimberly, they open in a new window.

DonnaH: yes. if you hold your control button while you click, it should pop up.

KimberlyJF: Thank you.

DonnaH: (at least all the pop up blockers I've seen said to do this)

DonnaH: did that work, Kim?

KimberlyJF: O.K. That worked!

DonnaH: *smiles*

DonnaH: Did you get that, Ngoc?

KimberlyJF: This is my first meeting.. Can you tell. *smiles*.

SusanaRi: Donna: How can I teach writing with technology?

DonnaH: (no, I can't * grin*)

ElizabetD: I've seen some interesting webquests designed around writing.

DonnaH: Well, one thing I've actually done, Susana *laugh* is to find a poorly written site, and have student edit it.

KimberlyJF: That is a great idea, Donna. That could be done in any subject.

SusanaRi: ok, thanks

DonnaH: teaches them too, to really consider their sources. just because its online doesn't mean its true, or a good resource.

MarkFir: We have some great sites for writing at our school website:

<http://www.IS68.org>

DonnaH: (course, I'm rotten, I've done that with the local newspaper too)

SusanaRi: Mark, thanks

KimberlyJF: Mark, I might pass those on to our English teachers.

DonnaH: I'm particularly fond of the different dictionaries.

DonnaH: I'm finding the classroom dictionaries don't have all the words students need...

NgocLamD: yes, sorry I got sidetrack a bit

DonnaH: and then there are the rhyming dictionaries, and the thesauruses.

KimberlyJF: Donna, which search engine do you think is best for education?

DonnaH: *chuckle* sokay, Ngoc:) that is the whole point.

DonnaH: I don't think one is best.

MarkFir: I like Ask Jeeves at www.Ask.com

NgocLamD smiles

DonnaH: it depends on each topic.

NgocLamD: well, I like google search more

JenniferM2: I like Google a lot, user friendly

DonnaH: I usually use yahoo

KimberlyJF: Mark, Have you tried Google Advanced Search?

DonnaH: but, Bj was telling me about dogpile...

JavierA: What is Google advanced search?

DonnaH: (wonders if she's listening in, so she can explain it...)

MarkFir: Kimberly, how do you do an "advanced search" with Google?

BJ: www.dogpile.com

KimberlyJF: Go to Google home page and click Advance Search and the page is very self explanatory.

LindaJM: I have tried many of these other sites and always go back to Google.

BJ: advanced search on google allows you to enter more fields

KimberlyJF: It also narrows your topic so you don't get so many useless hits.

NgocLamD: yes, and it's easier to use than any other one that I've used

DonnaH: (wonders if anyone has noticed we're at the top of the hour?)

JenniferM2 left the room (signed off).

SandyT: Dogpile is a megasearch engine...searches many search engines at once

JavierA: Does that mean this is over?

LindaJM: I have not tried Advance Search but will next time.

BJ noticed the time and yawns

SusanaRi: time goes fast when you're having fun

NgocLamD: sure is

KimberlyJF: Sure does.

MarkFir: Thanks for the discussion.

DonnaH: *chuckles*

DonnaH: well, I'm glad it was useful:~)

JavierA: Thank you Donna

NgocLamD: thanks for all the tips everyone

KimberlyJF: Thank you for all of the great info, Donna and everyone.

DonnaH: You are all more than welcome:~)

LindaJM: Thanks - this has been very informative.

DonnaH: it's been a great session:~)

SusanaRi: Thank you and good night

SandyT: the transcript available somewhere

KimberlyJF: Good-Bye and BJ, thanks again for all the extra help.

DonnaH: I'll be leading a language arts session in two weeks, same time:~)

NgocLamD: I'll be there

NgocLamD: see ya'll

KimberlyJF: I might be there, too.

JavierA: I will tell others in my class.

BJ: March 17