

Title of Session: Technology in the Classroom

Moderator: Sandra Shattuck

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Room: After School Online Room

CristinaRu: Is this session focusing mostly on high school integration?

BJ: Donna Hendry is the leader of this discussion

BJ: she usually tries to focus on K-12

BJ: a lot depends on who the participants are

JrG: This is my first time here so I'm just chatting

JerryJ joined the room.

BJ: if she is unable to log in (she's late), we'll have a guest speaker

TamnyF joined the room.

BJ: Hi, Jerry. Welcome

JrG: I'm in higher ed myself

BJ waves hi to Tamny

BJ: good, Jr. You can help us out with the higher ed tech integration!

JrG: Great!

CristinaRu: Thanks BJ for the info - I almost thought you were the leader for a second

SandraS joined the room.

BJ: What we'll do until Donna logs in is take care of a little bit of housekeeping

FranciaV: Ok

JrG: That's no prob. I actually tech technology

BJ: if you are new to Tapped In, click on the ACTIONS menu in the top right of the chat window and highlight DETACH

BJ: cool, Jr...this is going to be a real team effort...the TI community at its best

BJ: we usually start all the discussions in Tapped In with brief introductions

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

SandraS: I'm an English teacher in Alabama and helpdesk volunteer

JrG: I'm Chair of the Multimedia & Web Design department

TamnyF: hello! I'm a principal at a charter school in Houston, TX

FranciaV: I am a Spanish Teacher in Texas and I am also taking classes towards a Master's in Education

CristinaRu: I am an elementary teacher in Maryland - working on my masters in educational technology at Johns Hopkins

CortniC: I am a high school Spanish teacher in Texas and this is my first chat

JerryJ: I am a biology professor and assist the faculty in using technology.

JrG: I'm from Houston also

BJ: this is certainly a diverse group!

FranciaV: I am in Houston too!

CortniC: YeeHAW

BJ: Sandy has kindly offered to lead this discussion on integrating Technology into the Curriculum

FranciaV: I am glad to see the Spanish teachers are represented. Normally it's just me
LOL

FranciaV: This is also my first chat.

SandraS: welcome, Francia

SandraS: chat is certainly one way to use technology both in professional development
and in the classroom

FranciaV: Hi there!

SandraS: I'd like to start out with everyone simply stating what kinds of technology they
currently use in the classroom

SandraS: I'll begin

SandraS: I use website for my classes and also use blogs in my advance comp. class

SandraS: I've used Tapped In to hold office hours

SandraS: and to teach Masters students in Education and English

SandraS: I'll stop there

SandraS: Jr, would you like to start?

TamnyF: very limited; usually only the internet and some supplemental information

FranciaV: This is my first year teaching and I really haven't had an opportunity to
integrate technology in my classes in a more meaningful way.

JrG: I use top of the line Mac to teach scripting, audio/video editing, and the creation of
interactive cd's and portfolios

SandraS: all right!!!

FranciaV: Our resources are limited and we usually stick to videos and audio tapes

CristinaRu: I use blogs with my students too, Webquests, Treasure hunts, etc. My kids
are crazy about blogs!

CortniC: I am a second year teacher and I am currently taking a microcomputers in the
classroom class at college. I currently do not use a lot of technology because I have 30
students in each class and I have not bee familiar until this college class about what is
available

CortniC: And I don't know what blogs are

SandraS: Cristina, you want to explain blogs?

CristinaRu: Would love to!

SandraS: blogs = weblogs

SandraS: online diaries, basically

CristinaRu: I just presented with other teachers at a state conference on how to use them
in education - check out <http://www.schoolblogs.com/miccablogs/>

CristinaRu: Sorry slow at the keyboard

CortniC: thank you

SandraS: thanks for the URL Cristina

FranciaV: This is all very interesting!

CristinaRu: online journal - where kids can discuss or comment

BJ: you can click on the blue hyperlink to open a new page

SandraS: if anyone is new to Tapped In, just remember that you'll get a transcript of this
session in your email

FranciaV: Like Cristina, I am still in the learning process

SandraS: so any urls posted will be saved for you

JrG: essentially a new word for forums or discussion groups

SandraS: here's a possible agenda for today

CortniC: I assume they are international

SandraS: how about if we each state why we use technology? what are the benefits, the downsides

SandraS: then each state what technology we'd like to incorporate

BethanyT joined the room.

SandraS: and then network with our collective knowledge

CristinaRu: Sounds good!

SandraS: I incorporate technology in the classroom because I want to see how it improves teaching and learning

SandraS: I think lots of teachers feel pressure to incorporate without knowing why

SandraS: so why should we?

CristinaRu: I use technology to enhance my instruction - to make education come to life

TamnyF: personally, I think technology in the classroom will help to prepare our students for college and future jobs

SandraS: right, so there's the responsibility to ensure that students are tech literate

JrG: I use technology because I teach at a technology school. I prepare student to enter the workforce and utilize the technology we are currently using, such as this site

CortniC: It can make things easier and more interactive as well as visual. I am a visual learner.

SandraS: ok, so how does technology help "education come to life"?

SandraS: oops

SandraS: Cortni just answered my question

BJ: Technology in the classroom helps the students be engaged in their own learning and participate in project based learning

CristinaRu: One example is virtual fieldtrips

SandraS: absolutely

FranciaV: I want to apologize on my last comment... I should have said like Cortni

JrG: allows student to seek out thing that have meaning to them

SandraS: ok, so a couple reasons: addresses a wide range of learning styles

TamnyF: technology can be exciting to students and help make learning more fun and interesting

JerryJ joined the room.

FranciaV: I really agree with all of you on the importance of technology in the classroom

SandraS: ok, looks like we're all agreed that technology is necessary and helpful

FranciaV: Students are already into technology have no problems embracing it... I just wish we had better resources

JrG: prepares student for what's being utilized in the workforce

SandraS: the workforce connection is powerful

JrG: definitely

FranciaV: Very true

SandraS: so here are the kinds of classroom technology we've mentioned:

JrG: technology helps students realize the need to become lifelong learners

SandraS: blogs, interactive cds

SandraS: video, website, Webquests,

FranciaV: Speaking of learning styles... I can only imagine how wonderful it would be for students that need special modifications.

SandraS: yes

CristinaRu: Universal Design!

SandraS: accessibility is a huge issue

SandraS: and Francia brought up the challenges of resources

SandraS: economic inequities get reflected perhaps most quickly in technology

CristinaRu: SO much you can do in Word for accessibility

JrG: however sometimes it's knowing how to use the resources at hand

SandraS: what resources the school has, how it's updated

SandraS: I agree Jr

FranciaV: Our school is still working on getting a foreign language lab so we are really limited on resources at this time

SandraS: ok, I'd like to hear more about how Cristina uses blogs and how **JrG** uses interactive cds

SandraS: anyone else have any requests?

JrG: another advantage is information, anytime, anywhere

SandraS: right

CristinaRu: I use blogs in reader's workshop

JrG: ok

SandraS: can you explain reader's workshop?

CristinaRu: They are also great to use in science

CristinaRu: Students are given prompts and respond about authors and books that they love

CristinaRu: They get to read what books other students love and comment on them

SandraS: oh, cool

SandraS: do they post to the blogs at school or at home?

TamnyF: how much technology do you think we should allow within the classroom?

JrG: I teach advanced scrip for Macromedia Director. My students develop interactive training cd's on their subject of choice

CristinaRu: I also use a blog for my parents for class discussions

SandraS: ok, we've got 3 topics here so I'll facilitate

CristinaRu: They post at school and I have some that even post at home - which I love!

SandraS: lets finish up our blog discussion, move on to Jr's interactive Cd, and then address Tamny's question

JeffC joined the room.

JrG: I also try to tie this into to general education so it re-enforces both areas

SandraS: how have you seen the blogs affect your students' learning and/or your teaching?

CristinaRu: I would love to get kids posting about math as well - explain what they are thinking

SandraS: the national council of teacher of mathematics has a whole writing curriculum

CristinaRu: I have found that my kids are excited about reader's workshop - they love it!

SandraS: if one thinks of the workforce, that kind of work also helps students learn how to work in teams

SandraS: so the technology creates excitement

CristinaRu: In high school I have seen teachers use them to discuss songs and relevance to the real world - like where is the love from the black eyed peas

SandraS: and the excitement comes from student interaction

SandraS: cool

CortniC: What exactly is the format. I am not picturing the blog

CristinaRu: It is in real time - kids get immediate feedback from each other

SandraS: Cortni, a blog is basically a formatted web page

SandraS: there are all kinds of services like Blogger, LiveJournal

SandraS: you sign up and then you can begin posting

JrG: true

SandraS: here's an example from my advanced comp class

CristinaRu: We even use them at our school for professional development - to keep the discussion going among teachers and to collaborate

SandraS: <http://eng304classblog.blogspot.com>

SandraS: right, and there's a whole genre of corporate blogs, too

CortniC: thanks

SandraS: Cristina, that's a great idea about professional development

JrG: basically the sharing of information in real-time

SandraS: the problem with blogs is that you have to be sure to continue looking at them

SandraS: but there are also mechanisms to alert folks through email when you've posted something new

JrG: correct

CristinaRu: Thus the reason why we have drawings at our school - each time you post your name gets put in for a drawing at the end of the month!

SandraS: oh, that's great incentive

CristinaRu: Teachers love it!

SandraS: I've found that students often loosen up on their writing

SandraS: perhaps because they know the teacher isn't breathing down their back

SandraS: they have more of a sense of audience, too

CristinaRu: Yes that is true - they open up a bit more - but I also post to them and ask them questions

SandraS: excellent

JrG: and they're not face to face

SandraS: so it's a way of being interactive

CortniC: how often do ya'll go blogging in class

SandraS: I like it much better than hard copy journals

FranciaV: Any inappropriate writing occur?

JrG: easier to read the typing than the handwriting

SandraS: ah, inappropriate...

CristinaRu: Not with elementary - but the facilitator has the option to delete whichever entries they want

SandraS: you mean language wise... contentwise

FranciaV: I teach high school and there are some interesting characters out there

FranciaV: Language

CristinaRu: My kids use code names - we go through netiquette, etc all ahead of time

JrG: a product of their environments

SandraS: so in fact you're teaching internet literacy

SandraS: important

SandraS: I find that my style of writing on blogs, on the web, is simply different

FranciaV: That's great

JrG: this is true.

SandraS: so Jr, can you give us an example of an interactive training cd that one of your students has done?

CortniC: Let me try again, how often do you incorporate the weblogs in your teaching?

Do you have computers in your classroom or do you have to go to a lab?

SandraS: thank you, Cortni, for keeping us on track

CristinaRu: Is it ok to answer?

JrG: Since I use the high end programs my students develop training cd's to help other students

SandraS: sure, Christina

CristinaRu: sorry Jr - I will be quiet in a second

SandraS: sorry, Jr....looks like we're just about done with blogs...

SandraS: Cristina, why don't you go ahead

JerryJ: I think it would be great for English professors to use blogs. Any suggestions on how to encourage English professors to look into the advantages of having their students use blogs?

SandraS: right up my alley, Jerry...Cristina, you're on...

CristinaRu: I have two computers in my classroom - students rotate and sometimes in lab we all post - you can manage however you would like

SandraS: I've found that we needed lab time to make sure students logged on ok

CristinaRu: I incorporate blogs into teaching as well - by modeling responses

SandraS: I think Cristina uses a different blog interface

SandraS: that is, she can control students' entries

SandraS: so Cristina, you have one blog with multiple users?

SandraS: in my class, each student sets up own blog

SandraS: K-12 needs to consider permission issues, filters

CristinaRu: yes - It is easiest to do that at elementary level

SandraS: college level has other concerns

CristinaRu: I sent out a permission slip before we even began - there is one on that MICCA site I gave you - on an elementary level - you could adapt - and I think the AUP applies

JrG: like students blogging instead of their lessons

SandraS: Cortni, I also found I had to be specific about what I wanted students to address and when they needed to post by and also how to get responses

SandraS: so reading the blogs and commenting is often as important as posting

SandraS: thanks, Cristina, for that resource

JrG: I agree

CristinaRu: Sandra - I agree

SandraS: any more blog stuff, before we hear from Jr?

CristinaRu: no -

TamnyF: no

SandraS: I'm looking forward to checking out the site you gave us, Cristina

CortniC: I am blogged out for now I need to go to the website thanks for the info

SandraS: ok, Jr..you're on.

JrG: They create a cd that has ten lessons, ten quizzes, banks of questions that are randomly selected, and the answers are always rearranged on stage

JerryJ: Jr, how long does it take someone to learn Macromedia Director? I realize that with most software a person can learn the basics or can go much further with it. Also, what resources (books) would you recommend for learning it.

SandraS: are these education students?

JrG: I teach three level of it but you can learn in 11 weeks

JrG: Yes, associate degrees

TamnyF: how much technology should we allow within the classroom?

SandraS: ok, so the training video is aimed at students or teachers?

JrG: Books, Gary Rosenzweig, Director MX Special Edition

SandraS: we're almost to your question, Tamny...

JrG: Can be used for anyone wanting to learn other programs

SandraS: what do your students get out of doing these cds?

TamnyF: thank you

JrG: These could also be released as commercial product

SandraS: JrG, why do you find this a successful assignment/project?

JrG: More knowledge on the subject (research), higher level thinking skills

SandraS: cool

FranciaV: very cool

SandraS: so the technology helps the thinking, learning

SandraS: it's not just about pretty moving pictures

JrG: It causes student to stretch themselves in the terms of coding and problem solving

SandraS: maybe leading into Tamny's question, is the learning curve, the amount of time needed to learn the technology worth the end product

JrG: In my case yes

SandraS: (although there's nothing wrong with pretty moving pictures)

SandraS: do you have any technophobes, and if so, how do you deal with that?

JrG: They do at times use video within the cd

JrG: These are team projects

SandraS: oh, great

SandraS: that sounds like it would be fun

JrG: By the time they reach this level they have gotten over their fears

SandraS: would you recommend adjusting some of what you do for K-12?

FranciaV: JR, when your students create the CD what are you looking for in their products? Do they create them within their specific content areas or do you assign it?

JrG: I assign how the Cd should function, but they also have to write a treatment on the subject they've chosen

SandraS: there's the writing component

JrG: It must be business or education

FranciaV: What is a treatment?

JrG: They also do flowchart, timelines

JrG: a treatment is a written document explaining what the project is about and how it's going to be achieved

SandraS: any more questions for Jr, or Jr, you have anything else you want to add?

JrG: In other words, I'm the client and this is what I'll get for my money

FranciaV: sounds like fun... thanks for the info

JrG: Only that this is accomplished in 11 weeks

SandraS: that's a great way to learn...focus on one project for almost 3 months

JrG: For those in Houston, I teach at The Art Institute of Houston

SandraS: thanks for telling us about your work, Jr

TamnyF: I've enjoyed chatting with all of you guys and thanks for the new information!!!! bye

SandraS: cool...a Houston TI contingent

SandraS: well, we were just about to get to Tamny's question

JrG: feel free to give me a call or email me at griffitc@aii.edu and we can set up a tour

TamnyF: okay

CortniC: as much technology as you feel comfortable with as long as you feel you are helping and getting through to the students. It can be used to open so many other doors of thought that I don't think it should be restricted nor should it burn students eyes out

CristinaRu: Too bad I live on the east coast - I would love to take this class

SandraS: me, too, Cristina

SandraS: Cortni, that was well put

SandraS: I agree

UverC joined the room.

JrG: we have schools there also

TamnyF left the room (signed off).

SandraS: also, I think it's important to find ways to get supported for learning the technology

SandraS: in other words, it takes time

SandraS: good to find out if school has grants

SandraS: moneys to pay for workshops

SandraS: online classes

SandraS: whatever one needs

JrG: technology should not be seen as something we teach, but something we utilize to improve the class

SandraS: one of the major problems incorporating technology in the classroom is that many teachers just don't know what's out there

SandraS: or are scared of it

SandraS: or don't have the time

SandraS: I agree, Jr

CortniC: me too

CristinaRu: agree!

JrG: I taught myself

FranciaV: it should be considered an important tool

FranciaV: actually, a necessary tool

SandraS: I am pretty self-taught also, but I find places like Tapped In invaluable

JrG: teachers should get over their fears and also learn from the students

SandraS: I learn so much from friends and other teachers

SandraS: ok, so that's another aspect

SandraS: learning from the students

UverC: It's my first time here and I am thrilled!!!

FranciaV: I agree... I am amazed at how many teachers are reluctant to use technology

SandraS: technology almost always brings up generation gap issues

SandraS: Hi, Uver

JrG: I develop friendships with my students that are techies and they help me with the class

SandraS: Welcome

CortniC: my microcomputers in the classroom has been soooo helpful. I think it should be required for new teachers

UverC: This is exactly the place I had been looking for

UverC: Hello everyone

SandraS: Uver, would you like to introduce yourself?

UverC: Sure

FranciaV: Cortni, I would to hear about your teaching methods

JrG: Higher ed is way behind in training pre-service teachers

UverC: I'm working on a Master's thesis ...

CortniC: what

UverC: Negotiation of meaning between non-native speakers through cmc

SandraS: wow!

CortniC: what is cmc

UverC: I'm from Brazil

SandraS: I'm assuming cmc is computer mediated communication

SandraS: bom dia, Uver

UverC: computer mediated communication

SandraS: or boa noite

UverC: what we are doing

UverC: boa noite Sandra

SandraS: We're almost done here, but we've been discussing what technology we use

SandraS: why we use it

UverC: please go on

SandraS: how it improves teaching and learning

SandraS: we've discussed blogs

SandraS: and interactive CD using Macromedia Director

SandraS: we were just addressing the question, "How much technology should be used in the classroom?"

UverC: It will surely vary from case to case

SandraS: when you talk about cmc are you talking about email, chat, listservs?

JrG: students will let you know when it's too much

CortniC: are you in Brazil now? what is negotiation of meaning

SandraS: I agree, Jr

UverC: yes ... any type of communication held through computers...

UverC: synchronous or asynchronous

SandraS: so what is your basic conclusion

UverC: on how much?

SandraS: I'm assuming that you're saying cmc facilitates communication across language?

UverC: yes it surely does ...

UverC: look at what we are doing now!!

SandraS: another area where technology helps...

JrG: this is true

SandraS: yes, but that's because you're fluent in English....

SandraS: no, if we started talking in Portuguese, you'd be the only one talking, Uver

UverC: just look at how many people worldwide ...

JrG: there are translators available

UverC: are using msg or icq to communicate with people across the globe

FranciaV: So true

SandraS: or you can get online and play backgammon with someone in Switzerland...

UverC: And the really interesting aspect is that this mode of communication ...

FranciaV: Technology has really helped people cross all borders

UverC: is in the middle ground between spoken and written discourse

JrG: I've found language is only a barrier if you allow it to be

SandraS: way cool, Uver

SandraS: that's a great way of putting it

SandraS: I need to read your MA thesis

JrG: I have many international students

UverC: There are hypotheses that oral fluency might be enhanced through chat ...]

UverC: can you believe it?!?!?

SandraS: that makes sense...in some kind of way

UverC: It's still in the making Sandra

UverC: But I'll keep you informed

JrG: sometimes people are more open in chat

SandraS: excellent, I'm a foreign language teacher in one of my other past decades...

CristinaRu: I agree Jr

SandraS: we are at the end of the hour, and I want to thank all of you for your wonderful input

FranciaV: What did you teach, Sandra?

JrG: shyness disappears

SandraS: I very much enjoyed this conversation

SandraS: German, ESL

JrG: thanks for hosting this Sandra

SandraS: My pleasure.

FranciaV: very cool

UverC: Great

CortniC: it was very informative

SandraS: I also a session called WriteTalk

FranciaV: I agree

UverC: Nice meeting you all

SandraS: oops, typing

SandraS: WriteTalk meets the second Thursday of the month

BJ applauds Sandy and all the participants...great discussion!

SandraS: about writing across the curriculum

SandraS: take care all...

JrG: I'll try to catch that

SandraS: thanks, Jr!

CristinaRu: Thank you everyone

FranciaV: Bye everyone and have a great evening!

SandraS: have a great evening!

CristinaRu: Thanks Sandra

JrG: same here

CortniC: Uver I would like to know more about what you do in your classroom

SandraS left the room.

CortniC: I am a Spanish teacher (high school)

UverC: I'm still going to begin the practical aspect

UverC: And I'll probably use tapped in as our meeting place

UverC: I want to get learners from different schools together ..

UverC: and just see what happens

JrG: interesting

UverC: I'm really considering open-ended tasks

CortniC: such as

UverC: I'll just observe it happen naturally

UverC: No guided tasks: do this and do that

UverC: Just meet other people who are learning English ...

UverC: ... and talk about whatever you'd like

UverC: ... of course I have to provide the virtual environment to have control over the situation

UverC: Sort of like Foucault's Panopticon

UverC: And this virtual environment might be right here

CortniC: What kind of environment do you teach in now. Foucault is foreign to me

UverC: I teach adult students in a government organization

UverC: We've just completed setting up the multi-media lab ...

UverC: with 24 stations

UverC: Discovering Tapped In was precious!

UverC: What about you Cortni?

CortniC: This is my first time and I think it is very interesting. I teach high school Spanish...

CortniC: and I want to take students on an educational tour next summer...

UverC: where to?

CortniC: and I am very interested in connecting my class to students in other countries...

CortniC: Costa Rica

CortniC: I think

UverC: I'm afraid I have to leave now

UverC: I'm sure we'll meet around

CortniC: good luck, I'll read you later