

Title of Session: WebTools-Digital Storytelling

Moderator: Pam Berger

Guest Speaker: Mary Thompson

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Room: Hot Tub Conference Room

MaryFT: Pam, would you like to do the honors of getting us started?

BJB2: perhaps we should do a couple things first, Mary

MaryFT listens

PamB listens

BJB2: a reminder to all new TI participants to go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat window and click on DETACH

BJB2: that will make your chat window larger and easier to read

BJB2: if a url is shown during the discussion, hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard if you have a pop up blocker.

BJB2: we usually start all the discussions with introductions

BJB2: Welcome to the WebTools discussion. I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In

RobynH: Hi! I'm a student teacher in Houston

MaryFT: I'm Mary Thompson, a professor of instructional technology at University of Houston

BrandiR: My name is Brandi. I am a preservice teacher at UofH. I am in a Kindergarten class right now.

CarrieT: Hi I'm a graduate student who wants to teach middle school language arts and social studies

PamB: I'm an educational technology/library consultant from New York City.

JulieMar: My name is Julie I also attend UH and am a preservice teacher

PamB: If that's everyone, let's get started...

PamB: Tonight we are going to look at digital storytelling...

PamB: Mary has put together a great list of resources.

MaryFT: The main resource we'll be using tonight is a hotlist of digital storytelling links at <http://www.coe.uh.edu/courses/cuin3113/digitalstorytelling.htm>

PamB: Mary do you want to introduce the first DS?

MaryFT: Make sure you hold down your CTRL key if you have a pop-up blocker

MaryFT: In a minute I am going to ask you to go to this page and look at two things

MaryFT: 1. The Definitions section

MaryFT: 2. The first Digital Storytelling example called "Geology Story"

MaryFT: When you have had a chance to look at those two areas on the page, please come back

MaryFT: is everyone okay with that?

CarrieT: okay

PamB: yup

BrandiR: Sounds good

JulieMar: yes

MaryFT: Okay...I'll wait here for you to return

RobynH: we look at definitions and what? sorry it closed my window and I lost what you said...

MaryFT: We are visiting the first two sections of this page:
<http://www.coe.uh.edu/courses/cuin3113/digitalstorytelling.htm>

RobynH: k

BJB2 . o O (if you have a pop up blocker, hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard as you click on the url)

MaryFT: look at the definitions and watch the 1st movie "Geology Story"

LisaS: OK

JulieMar: I'm back.. Looks hard..

MaryFT: What looks hard Julie?

JulieMar: the whole process. I didn't understand what Dr. P was saying in class. So I hope you can explain it better.

MaryFT: It's actually not too hard...some new tools now make the process much easier

RobynH: cute movie

MaryFT: What stage strikes you as being the most difficult?

LisaS: That was cute, the music really makes it.

BrandiR: I am back

JulieMar: the importing of pictures and making it flow so easy

MaryFT: I agree Lisa...the music selection was key to "setting the mood"

MaryFT: What did you think of the first movie Brandi?

MaryFT: We're just sharing thoughts right now

PamB: Julie, storyboarding helps to get the flow.

JulieMar: oh.

BrandiR: I really enjoyed the pictures and music, I wish it wasn't so fast

MaryFT nods

LisaS: I like how it took you many different places with just a click

PamB Pam agrees with Brandi

CarrieT: great pictures. Really helps when you talk about a place you've never seen in person

MaryFT: One key part from the definitions was that a digital story is personal

JulieMar: right!

MaryFT: The student who created the Geology Story was a Geology major who was getting her teaching cert.

MaryFT: She wanted to use her digital story to convey the "fun" in geology

BrandiR: Is it something personal that you always create about yourself

MaryFT: not just the textbook definitions

LisaS: I like that idea, the music made it seem fun

MaryFT: Not necessarily about yourself but about something you feel strongly about

BrandiR: Oh, thanks

RobynH: I thought the words went away too fast, I couldn't always read what it said

LisaS: I agree

MaryFT: Let me introduce the next video

JulieMar: you can adjust the time right?

RobynH: k

MaryFT: yes Julie you can control all those settings with the software you use

MaryFT: The next digital story is called Dust Bowl

MaryFT: I created it because I know that people in my family (my grandmother's family) were affected by the Dust Bowl

MaryFT: Still, I didn't really understand it

MaryFT: I was able to find a collection of historical photos from an online source (we'll talk about sources in just a minute)

MaryFT: and I used those along with lyrics to a song to create a digital story

MaryFT: I'm hoping that you all can view it

RobynH: Dr. Thompson- It won't let me play it without downloading something new, is there a way to watch it in QuickTime?

MaryFT: Go ahead and go back to <http://www.coe.uh.edu/courses/cuin3113/digitalstorytelling.htm> and view the second digital story

MaryFT: Robyn, you will need to download the new Windows Media Player to view it (that's one problem with PhotoStory videos)

CarrieT: I really enjoyed that one, the way it zoomed in and took time for you to really read the words and absorb how they relate to the pictures

RobynH: k...

LisaS: ithe words did sound like lyrics to the background song,

LisaS: I like the effect of zooming in on the person in the storm

PamB: I agree - they blend beautifully

MaryFT: That was almost accidental actually!

MagnoliaA: really?

MaryFT: It just so happened that the collection of photos seemed to relate directly to the lyrics...it was weird actually

PamB: did you do a lot of research? Talk to family members?

JulieMar: wow.. that was cool...

LisaS: worked perfectly

MaryFT: The storyboarding process was much easier because of it

CarrieT: what can you use to create a digital story, windows movie maker?

LisaS: I really like movie maker!

MaryFT: I could have done a lot more Pam and I will probably expand this one

JulieMar: do the programs we use have music included on them?

LisaS: It's easier than you think to use

MaryFT: but for this version I just used an online history text, Wikipedia, and a PBS site

MaryFT: Okay...let's move on to tools

VickiML: My students are currently writing narrative poetry; I think they could use this to present their poems.

MaryFT: since that's where the questions are right now

MaryFT: Absolutely Vicki!

MaryFT: There are three major tools for Windows users that can make digital stories

PamB nods at Vicki

MaryFT: The old standby would be PowerPoint...it can be manipulated to do a digital story and would work if you didn't have access to another tool

MaryFT: but it doesn't make movie files

CarrieT: it wouldn't necessarily flow as well in power point I don't think

MagnoliaA: true

MaryFT: MovieMaker is the first of the free MovieMaking tools that comes with Windows XP

BrandiR: We used a program in 3112, but I forgot the program

BrandiR: that's it

MaryFT: MovieMaker has the ability to import moving video (as with the "Geology" video)

MaryFT: but it is a little harder to finish your movie

LisaS: How so?

MaryFT: and finally, the new "hot" tool that is making digital storytelling a household word, is PhotoStory

JulieMar: That's the one I want to use..

BrandiR: where do you get it?

MaryFT: Lisa, MovieMaker saves in .WSWMM format (or something like that)...you have to know how to export to .wmv

VickiML: Is this tool software?

LisaS: OHHH

MaryFT: it's not hard but my students often forget to do that

PamB: is both PC and MAC

RobynH: yeah!

RobynH:

MaryFT: Mac has had iMovie for years though

MaryFT: it's a very powerful tool as well

RobynH: yup, it's a great program! so easy to use!

MaryFT: PhotoStory is free for Windows XP users to download

MaryFT: and for UH students, its on all the computers in the CITE Lab

BrandiR: Yea!

LisaS: Good

MagnoliaA: do you just go to the website to obtain it for free?

JulieMar: cool..

MaryFT: Microsoft's tag for PhotoStory is "It makes Show-and-Tell fun again!"

VickiML: Are there difficulties that students may have with this?

LisaS: cute!

MaryFT: Yes Magnolia...you can download it from
<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/photostory/default.msp>

CarrieT: If you create a digital story, will all students have to have access to a PC to view it.

MagnoliaA: thanks

MaryFT: Depending on their familiarity with basics like dragging and dropping, Vicki

JulieMar: I can drag and drop.. HA HA

JulieMar: that's easy

MaryFT: not sure Carrie

JulieMar: wont they have to have the program to view it?

MaryFT: What I like about PhotoStory is that it literally walks you through the steps of importing your pictures, editing them, adding music, etc

BrandiR: Thanks great!

JulieFD: I agree

JeanZB: My kids would love to use this in retelling stories we have done in reading

MaryFT: and it automatically saves in .wmv which means that anyone with Windows Media Player should be able to view it

LisaS: thats a great idea

JeanZB: Right now we create children's books of the stories we read

JulieMar: great for family memories.

MaryFT: Yes, Julie, I made a PhotoStory about my wedding

RobynH: isn't this kinda like the project we did in 3112? making a movie?

JulieMar: I want to see it...

BrandiR: me too

MaryFT: Yes

RobynH: k

MaryFT: Stick around after the session and I will show you

JulieMar: thanks...

LisaS: OK

MaryFT: You are making a movie Robyn, but in this case, you can do it all with still images

RobynH: ahh

MaryFT: in essence, you are creating a still image video a la Ken Burns

JulieMar: You can use it to present information on things being taught in class.

RobynH: like a photo story

MaryFT: does everyone know about Ken Burns?

JulieMar: no

CarrieT: no

JeanZB: I love Ken Burns

BrandiR: no

MaryFT: me too

JeanZB: His Civil War Series is amazing

LisaS: Whos that

RobynH: yeah, they have it on i movie and i photo

BJB2: Ken Burns was a guest speaker for one of the Social Studies Forums

VickiML: This seems more of an artistic whole than just writing.

BJB2: . o O (in Tapped In)

JeanZB: I would love to meet him

MaryFT: his most widely known work is the Civil War series that was shown on PBS a few years ago

LisaS: I like because you can be so creative!

JeanZB: Baseball was really good too

MaryFT: he uses still image archives from public domain sources to create movies about history

MaryFT: which is my segue into online resources

MaryFT: so....you want to create a digital story right?

JulieMar: YES

BrandiR: yes

LisaS: yep

CarrieT: yep

JasonDe: yes

JeanZB: sure

MaryFT: you can start with something that is close to you

VickiML: Fun

MaryFT: like a wedding, or a family history

MagnoliaA: ?

RobynH: oh, I did that last summer, it turned out great!

MaryFT: you have access to family photos and stories that are begging to be told

MaryFT: Magnolia, what is your question?

MagnoliaA: I'm sorry I was just wondering about the story with the wedding

MagnoliaA: I did not imagine doing that

MaryFT: but, there are also lots of resources online that you and your students can use to create educational digital stories

MagnoliaA: sounds interesting

JulieMar: Like TEXAS History

MaryFT nods vigorously

MagnoliaA: I understand more now

JeanZB: I can see using it for recreating the voting process for civics

MaryFT: I'm just going to tell you about a few resources that I have found (they are all listed on the companion page)

JulieMar: k

RobynH: k

MaryFT: first, there are Public Domain sources

JeanZB: k

MagnoliaA: ok

BrandiR: okay

VickiML: Super

RobynH: ones that we can use without copyright, you mean?

MaryFT: Public Domain sources were created by gov't entities and cannot be copyrighted

JeanZB: I didn't know that

RobynH: coo

MaryFT: really...I didn't believe it myself but it's written on NOAA's site

VickiML: Our wonderful government

MaryFT: so, they're a really good place to steer your students when they're looking for resources

MaryFT: here come the acronyms...

JulieMar: but you can't use them in your digital storytelling

MaryFT: why Julie?

MaryFT: NASA : <http://grin.hq.nasa.gov/>

JulieMar: they can't be copyrighted? OH, I get it now.. WE can use them

MaryFT: you got it

RobynH: wow, those are cool pics from nasa!

BrandiR: do we go look at them

MaryFT: NASA's resources would be great for science teachers at all levels

BJB2 hopes Mary is going to show the LOC resources

MaryFT: but so would NOAA's: <http://www.photolib.noaa.gov/collections.html>

MaryFT: it's amazing how many things the National Aeronautic and Oceanic Agency is involved in

MaryFT: oops...got that backwards

RobynH: wow, they have pics of tornados and everything

LisaS: These are great sources

JeanZB: Interesting for the kids and the teachers!

BrandiR: I am doing a unit on Natural Disasters, this would be great

MaryFT: tornados, hurricanes, the DUST BOWL (that's where I got my pics)

RobynH: ahh

MagnoliaA: yes they are

MaryFT nods to Brandi

LisaS: I love it!

MaryFT: then there's History resources at the Library of Congress:
<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/learn/features/index.html>

JulieFD: These resources would work well with my ESL students because they need visuals

JulieMar: Nice

BJB2: LOC is presenting Poetry and Literature next Thursday in Tapped In

MaryFT nods to Julie

BrandiR: I am a visual learner!

RobynH: got any insect resources? he he

MaryFT: absolutely...many students these days are highly visual

MaryFT: hmmm...a challenge Robyn...but I bet we could find some

JulieMar: Dr T. can find anything...

RobynH: lol, yeah...

MaryFT: try the educational fair use resource: <http://freefoto.com>

RobynH: k

RobynH: thx

VickiML: What is LOC?

Crystale: so how can this be used for ESL?

MaryFT: by educational fair use, I mean a resource that gives limited permission to educators to use their works for the classroom

MaryFT: Vicki: Library of Congress

JulieFD: The students could get ideas to help them start writing

MagnoliaA: cool

MaryFT: the use of language in creating a digital story is definitely stressed

PamB: Vicki, the LOC created The American Memory Project --seven million items

MaryFT: students learn the keys to verbal and written expression as they create their stories

RobynH: thanks for the website, just have to be specific when searching. great pics!

MaryFT: many students are able to connect to language more fluently when they are telling a story about themselves or their families

JulieMar: and it's personal..

BrandiR: They like creating things all about them!

MaryFT: I have seen a wonderful story where an ESL student tells about coming to the University of Houston

VickiML: how do digital stories give them the keys to written and verbal expression?

LisaS: I really like the free music site!

JulieMar: the connection of written to verbal

MaryFT: let me see if I can find something...

CrystalE: <http://www.prel.org/eslstrategies/multimedia.html> this site talks about using digital storytelling with ESL

MaryFT: Vicki, there is actually a video where teachers talk about the benefits of digital storytelling for their students

CrystalE: thanks Julie

JulieFD: Any time girlfriend

MaryFT: It's at: <http://www.digitalstorytelling.org/videovaultmoreinfo.htm> under Writing Outcomes

VickiML: Thanks

MaryFT: So, you guys have jumped ahead to music?

JulieMar: sorry..

MaryFT: One of the neat things about PhotoStory is that it can create music for you

JulieFD: Maybe Crystal we could use the Adobe Premier software to help our ESL students with writing

JulieMar: I am liking this program more and more

LisaS: I think it's a very important part of DS

MaryFT: no problem Julie!

MaryFT: Adobe Premiere is the granddaddy of all video software

MaryFT: the learning curve on it can be rather steep but it could, of course, be used for digital storytelling

CrystalE: Mary we tried that last week in our tech leadership class

JulieFD: I need to start using it more in my classroom

CrystalE: we filmed a video on how to use Inspiration not an academy-award winning performance on my part though!

MaryFT: for classroom use, you might find PhotoStory or MovieMaker more readily accessible to your students

JulieFD: Oh Crystal, I think it should win an academy award

RobynH: photostory and moviemaker are free, right? and the Adobe Premiere you have to pay for?

MaryFT: yes Robyn...PhotoStory and MovieMaker are free for Windows XP users

JulieMar: teachers like free..

LisaS: Yes!

BrandiR: free is always good!

MaryFT: Adobe Premiere is quite expensive

MaryFT smiles

RobynH: yeah, the adobe photoshop i got for my Mac was like \$600 bucks!

MaryFT: I taught you well!

JulieMar: Yes you have... (-:

MaryFT: so with PhotoStory, finding music is not as important

RobynH: k

MaryFT: but if your students want to select a piece of music that is more evocative of their story, there are a few sites on the web that can help

RobynH: you mean free songs? like public domain ones?

PamB thinks we need to start wrapping it up

MaryFT: <http://www.freeplaymusic.com/> provides some really nice music clips under Educational Free Use

MaryFT: ok Pam!

RobynH: coo thx!

MaryFT: Robyn, the links on the hotlist are either Educational Fair Use or Free

LisaS: Thanks Mary I'll check out Photostory! I got some great resource sites from this!

PamB: Mary, this was a great session - I learned a lot. Thanks

MaryFT: Glad to hear it

RobynH: yeah, thanks for all the ideas!

MaryFT: My pleasure

MaryFT: I will continue to add to the hotlist as I find new things

JulieMar: Thanks.. Dr. T..

MaryFT: Thanks for coming tonight Julie

JulieMar: Can we see your wedding digital storytelling?

LisaS: Great! Bye All!

RobynH left the room.

MaryFT: Yep...hang on a sec

MaryFT: <http://fp.coe.uh.edu/mthompson/wedding/ourwedding.wmv>

JulieMar: Thanks. Dr. T.

BrandiR: thanks

MaryFT: take care...just email me if you have any questions

SusanR . o O (regrets about missing the session..must catch the transcript)

MaryFT: Susan...I've created a list of resources that you can visit at <http://www.coe.uh.edu/courses/cuin3113/digitalstorytelling.htm>

SusanR: Thank you, Mary

SusanR: In the last Tech in the Classroom Digital Storytelling was mentioned frequently. I stood in for Donna.

MaryFT: it's very "hot" right now

MaryFT: so many varied educational uses

MaryFT: all grades levels, content areas

SusanR: It was an informal discussion

BJB2: digital storytelling is like webquests, Sue

BJB2: you can probably find thousands of both...but only a few are truly excellent

MaryFT: very true BJ

SusanR: and the outstanding ones can be found where

BJB2: I think Mary has given you a good start, Susan