

Title of Session: SIGTC - Marco Polo: Internet Content for the Classroom

Moderator: Karen Connaghan

Guest Speaker: Michael Russo

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KarenConna: Welcome All

KarenConna: Michael Russo will be our speaker tonight...

KarenConna: he will be sharing his expertise with Marco Polo tonight

KarenConna: Before I turn the floor over to him....

KarenConna: would everyone please introduce themselves and tell where you teach or what your connection to education is

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I like educational technology and work with teachers to help them learn more about it

KarenL: Hi, I'm Karen Lemmons, Library Media Specialist in a Detroit Public elementary school.

ChrisPr: I am the computer coordinator at a Charter school in the Detroit metro/urban area.

KarenL: where, Chris?

BillCon joined the room.

BrookeM: I am Brooke. I teach 3rd grade in Maryland right outside Washington, DC.

ChrisPr: Farmington Hills and Detroit/south of Hamtramck

BrookeM waves to Bill

KarenConna: I'm Karen Connaghan and I am an educational technology consultant for an intermediate unit in the Phila, PA area

KarenL: Okay. . .sounds like you're busy.

SusanR: I am a K to 8 Occasional, former grade 2 teacher and former Educational Technology Integrator from Ontario, Canada

BillCon: Bill Connaghan Cornwall-Lebanon SD Network Admin

MichaelRu: I'm a technology integrator at a middle school in Williamsville, NY (suburban Buffalo) (and no, its not snowing yet...)(yet...)

KarenConna: Once again, Welcome all.

KarenConna: Before we begin....

KarenConna: be sure to detach your chat window. by clicking the actions box at the top of the chat window and selecting detach....

BrookeM Laughs...she had everyone convinced we would have a snow day today

KarenConna: also remember to hold down the control key before clicking on any links posted in the chat.

ElizabetAD joined the room.

KarenConna: and without further ado, I pass the microphone to Mike

KarenConna: Welcome Elizabeth

ElizabetAD: thanks

BrookeM claps

MichaelRu: thanks Karen!

MichaelRu: welcome everyone - I appreciate your time tonight

MichaelRu: MarcoPolo is an outstanding resource that some of you may know already - before I jump in, would you all chime in

MichaelRu: with what your exposure/knowledge of MP is already?

ElizabetAD: zero

KarenConna: I know of it, but really haven't venture too far into the resource

ChrisPr: I receive the emailed newsletter

BrookeM: 0-10 I'm a 1

KarenL: I know of it, but have not had a chance to really check it out.

SusanR: 6 . . .subscribe to MarcoGram and do a lot of my searching for resources here..and a frequent visitor to MarcoPolo

MichaelRu: cool - as long as I can type decently, I hope in the next hour I can whet your appetite and give you ideas to help you surf for hours For those who know it please share things that you know also.

MichaelRu: FYI I have posted an inspiration document in the docs area of this room

MichaelRu: as a reference for what I'm doing

MichaelRu: you don't need it now - but feel free to grab it later

KarenConna: great!

MichaelRu: I also posted pdf and .doc in case Inspiration is not accessible to you.

MichaelRu: My theme tonight is the Top 5 Great Things about MarcoPolo

MichaelRu: I'm starting w/ #1 so the best does not get cut off at the end...

MichaelRu: so here we go...

MichaelRu: MarcoPolo is a private foundation funded majorly by MCI

MichaelRu: It is a partnership between MCI and the leading national organizations in all the content areas - ela, math, science, etc.

MichaelRu: The #1 great thing about Marco Polo is what I call the "meat" of MarcoPolo -

MichaelRu: the content partners (national organizations) and the websites they maintain as part of MarcoPolo

MichaelRu: when we visit the main MP site in a moment, I'll show you where to find the partner sites.

MichaelRu: btw, I said before, please fire questions at any time...

KarenConna: is there a fee to use MarcoPolo

MichaelRu: FREE FREE FREE FREE

KarenConna: cool!

MichaelRu: one of the things about the sites is that they are funded by grants/foundations - anything you find (lessons, etc.) is free for teachers to download, print, use, etc.

TomIn joined the room.

MichaelRu: they get their funding by having a training network where teachers hear about it (like this) and give feedback.

KarenConna: welcome Tom

MichaelRu: I'll give you the first link in a moment - when we go to the main page, roll your mouse over the buttons on the right hand side of the page - you will see the names of the partner sites, and the content areas covered

MichaelRu: I'm going to "project" the website - it should pop up automatically (I think) if not -click on the link

KarenConna: remember to hold down the control key when clicking on the link and....

KarenConna: arrange your windows so you can keep an eye on this chat window too!

MichaelRu: then resize the window so you can see chat and the page

MichaelRu projects <http://www.mped.org>

KarenConna: If you are blocking pop-up, you'll need to click the link

MichaelRu: new info - I wont project - kicks people off

KarenConna: could you type the link again Mike

MichaelRu: www.mped.org

MichaelRu: sorry to bump you off Karen

KarenConna: I had my pop up blocker on, but thought I didn't. oh well

KarenConna: I have the page in view now

KarenConna: has everyone else navigated to the site?

TomIn: Yes

ChrisPr: Yes.

KarenConna: Let's continue Mike

MichaelRu: as you can see, the partner sites are the meat - take Illuminations for example - it is the site sponsored by NCTM - national council of teachers of math - awesome site for math teachers. There are similar sites for arts, science, humanities, economics, etc

MichaelRu: if you find a resource via marcopolo, a panel of experts at the national level has already determined the stuff is good for teachers and kids - a key timesaver for those searching

KarenConna nods

KarenConna is checking out a few of the partners

MichaelRu: MP partners put 4 main things on their sites: lesson plans, hands on interactive activities, resources, and website reviews

MichaelRu: once again, the key is FREE FREE FREE FREE

KarenConna: so....

MichaelRu: let's take a look at a couple of samples - this one from the economics site:

KarenConna: all materials has been reviewed by the experts

MichaelRu:

<http://www.econedlink.org/lessons/index.cfm?lesson=EM198&page=teacher>

MichaelRu: this is a sample lesson plan for grades 3-5 - all the partners try to follow this format

MichaelRu: you will see a developed plan, steps, culminating activity, and extension ideas for students who need them.

MichaelRu: take a few minutes and browse this lesson, then come back

MichaelRu: there are online activities with this lesson also, but well visit the online stuff in a few minutes

MichaelRu: everyone ok to move on?

KarenConna nods

ChrisPr: Ok

MichaelRu: the next example is a great resource at xpeditions, the national geographic website

BillCon: good to go

TomIn: ok

MichaelRu: it is an online atlas, that gives you the choice to view continents, countries, and states, with or without detail

MichaelRu: when you see the page, use the drop downs to navigate - you can download pdfs to print, or gifs to insert into ppts or other files - very nice layout to them

MichaelRu: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/atlas/>

MichaelRu: play, and don't forget to come back!

KarenConna: looks like fun

MichaelRu: click on detailed or basic to turn names on / off

MichaelRu: now let's look at an example of interactives - all the partners are focused on doing these - hers is an example from Illuminations - the math website

MichaelRu: it lets students explore geometric solids

MichaelRu: http://illuminations.nctm.org/tools/tool_detail.aspx?id=70#

KarenConna: welcome CJ

MichaelRu: scroll down a bit, and after a moment you should see a shape you can manipulate

MichaelRu: there are lessons associated with this interactive which has the students investigate and write down their observations of the shapes

MichaelRu: there is a link to instructions, but click & drag the shape to investigate, hold down shift while clicking to change a sides color

KarenConna: cool

MichaelRu: the illuminations site has lots of interactives like this - from their main page you can click on tools to see them all

MichaelRu: so far so good, everyone?

KarenConna: I've used some of these with students and they enjoy it

ChrisPr: These are some neat sites!

SusanR: our spec ed teachers like the student interactivity at illuminations

MichaelRu: for an overview of the interactive activities available, check out this link to the Trainer MarcoGram. We'll talk about the marcogram more in a bit

MichaelRu: http://www.mped.org/MarcoGrams/TMG_Summer2005se.html

MichaelRu: warning - have time to dig through these - there are a lot of great resources!

MichaelRu: speaking of training, the training model MP uses is straight forward - attend a training in your area, get "up to speed" and start training!

MichaelRu: I first went to a 1 hour session about 4 years ago, got hooked, and over the course of a year started training.

KarenConna: do they have training in lots of locations across the US?

MichaelRu: I always say that I know about 3% of what in marcopolo - every training brings up new great ideas

KarenConna: or is the training online?

MichaelRu: yes Karen, they have a rollout partner network - on the main page, locate the rollout network link and check your state

KarenConna: k

MichaelRu: there is also online training - on the main page at the bottom you will see a link that read New to MarcoPolo? - in there it talks about ways to learn about MP

MichaelRu: let's touch base on finding stuff - there are thousands of lesson plans and resources...

MichaelRu: on the main page in the upper left corner is a search link - I always like the advanced search in any engine, including MP

MichaelRu: here is a direct link to the advance search:

MichaelRu:

http://www.marcopolosearch.org/MPSearch/Advanced_Search.asp?orgn_id=2

MichaelRu: you will see limiters for subject, partner, grade, format, and resource

MichaelRu: the search feature returns lesson plans and reviewed websites

MichaelRu: MP does not "live in a vacuum"

MichaelRu: you may find links to websites you are already familiar with - which is the way it should be

MichaelRu: the great thing is the national panel developing and reviewing content for your classroom

MichaelRu: so much good stuff...so little time...

KarenConna smiles

MichaelRu: so...how can you keep "connected" to what's happening w/MP?

KarenL: so true. . .

MichaelRu: there are always updates going on -

MichaelRu: Great thing #2 is the MarcoGram (the standard MarcoGram, different from the trainer marcoGram)

MichaelRu: it comes out once a month, with a cross - curricular theme that anyone can get ideas from

MichaelRu: the link below will take you to the archive with all of them, most recent on top

MichaelRu: <http://www.marcopolo-education.org/teacher/marcograms.aspx>

MichaelRu: October theme is a celebration of food, in conjunction w/National School Lunch week. Some resources in here were perfect for my Home & Career teachers. All the marcograms have a similar format - lesson ideas/themes, and links to all resources

MichaelRu: and you'll see cross-curricular lessons included.

MichaelRu: at the top of the page I sent, there is a link to subscribe to marcogram - free to anyone - you'll be glad you did

KarenConna: cool!

MichaelRu: I want to point out one thing (actually great thing #4) before pausing for ?s - The Prof Devel program in MP is great - the rollout program is big in many states. NY

State Ed just labeled MP lessons as the premiere site for our teachers to find lessons correlated to the NYS standards.

MichaelRu: and since this is a sigtc chat, the other big PD key is that ISTE awarded MP the seal of alignment for the NETS for Teachers. So, if you are trying to find high quality resources for your teachers or yourself - this is a great place to look.

KarenConna: I think PA just contracted with NetTrekker

MichaelRu tries to cool down fingers and hopes he has offered some good stuff

MichaelRu: ?s

MichaelRu: I mean - any questions?

KarenConna: I imagine your teachers use this resource frequently?

MichaelRu: yes - when someone approaches me, too, the first place I look is here

DavidWe joined the room.

MichaelRu: followed up by united streaming (but that is for another discussion...)

KarenConna: what tips do you have for introducing marco polo to teachers?

KarenConna: welcome back David

DavidWe thanks Karen

MichaelRu: if it is a quick one-on-one I sit down with them and do a search with them to get them to the "meat"

KarenConna passes David a virtual Lebanon county donut

DavidWe: chocolate?

KarenConna nods

DavidWe appreciates any/all donuts

KarenConna: Any trouble spots for teachers when using it?

MichaelRu: the key of MP is the lessons, interactive and websites - once people see them, they are usually hooked.

DavidWe nods

BjB appreciates Michael's presentation on MP

MichaelRu: there are often audio files , etc - always check to see if they work

DavidWe: Do you have a sense, Michael, about how many users take advantage of MarcoPolo?

MichaelRu: on the main page of MP, you can see the stats country-wide and state wide in each state - that gives a good idea.

MichaelRu: look under Rollout Network

MichaelRu: It is easy to do inservices with just one content area - arts, math, etc, and give them time to find good stuff

KarenConna: have your teachers devised any way to share good lessons that they found with each other? maybe a room here in Tapped In or something like that?

MichaelRu: fingers getting worse as time goes on...

MichaelRu: that would be cool...

MichaelRu: sharing is always important

KarenConna: Well, I think our time has come to an end.

KarenConna: I'd like to thank Michael for sharing his knowledge and time with us.

ChrisPr: Or perhaps a virtual bookmarking type tool such as del.icio.us

MichaelRu: great idea, Chris

KarenConna: Our next event is November 10th with

TomIn: Thanks, it was very informative.

KarenConna: Dr. John Bransford, author of How People learn

MichaelRu: Thanks everyone for coming!