

Title of Session: WebTools
Moderator: Pam Berger
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Room: WebTools Group

BJB2: welcome to this session of WebTools, everyone!

PamB: Let's start by introducing ourselves

BJB2 agrees with Pam

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania

EmilyA agrees also

BJB2 . o O (and Pam has some very cool tools to share with you all!)

PaulaJo: I am a Kindergarten teacher in Louisiana

PamB: I'm a school library consultant from NY

DavidWe: I help teachers learn more about technology in person and online. I'm in Northern New Jersey, near NYC

EmilyA: I teach kindergarten in Lake Charles, LA.

BlairCo: I'm the IT Admin for a prep school in Phoenix. I handle all the web services.

PamB: I was just in Phoenix great weather!

SusanR: K to 8 Occasional Teacher from Ontario Canada and I help teachers learn about technology online..used to do face to face online prof dev

BlairCo: Yes, we are now entering the prime season!

PamB: I wanted to look at two different free tools tonight...

PamB: I just found them and have started to use them...

PamB: One is for writing, it's a word processor on the web, free...

PamB: and what's so cool about it....

BJB2 . o O (free is good)

PamB: is that you can collaboratively use it.

BlairCo: I think I've read about it - I'm waiting to hear the name.

PamB: Let's go look at it for 10 minutes and then come back and share. Think about how you would use it with students...

PamB: What grades and how?

PamB: the URL is <http://www.writely.com>

PamB: It's called Writely

SusanR: does not support Safari ..shucks

SusanR fires up Firefox

PamB: Is everyone finding it OK?

EmilyA: Yes, thank you.

BlairCo: Pretty cool. Would be great for students working in a group to create the final document.

PamB: I think so too.

BlairCo: Kind of like a wiki, only more word processor like.

PamB: what a great collaboration tool.

BlairCo: And I like that you can import existing documents and then go from there.

PamB: yes I thought of a wiki also when I saw this...but it [is] simple

EmilyA: I am not sure about how to let kindergarteners use this. However, I think that my teaching partner and I could use this to update weekly letters to the parents.

PamB: Right now it's free but I think they are going to have different levels of membership with some parts free.

PaulaJo: We too send weekly letters to our parents, but we could upload this to our school webpage

PamB: I agree kids need to know how to keyboard.

PamB: It might be useful to have kids collaboratively write stories

PaulaJo: We do teach basic keyboarding skills, but I don't think K students will be able to use this. It would be more of an informational tool for the parents.

EmilyA: Pam, Do you have any ideas on how to use the collaboration with kindergarten students?

PamB: I'm not sure what you mean...use this tool or to encourage collaboration in general?

EmilyA: How would I implement this tool?

BlairCo: I have a kindergartener, and I'm not sure how he could use this. He has a blog I set up for him, but it doesn't really get much use - more of a novelty thing for the grandparents.

BlairCo: He's not a master of the keyboard yet

PamB: It really depends on the keyboarding and writing skills of the students...K is too young I think to effectively use this tool

BlairCo: I'm at a high school, so I can see about a hundred different uses for this.

PaulaJo: I am impressed he has a blog! I am sure the grandparents love it!

PamB: I would start with 3 graders, perhaps, What do you think?

BlairCo: Yes, it is easier than managing a web site. I used to do that for him, but now I can email items to the blog and they are posted. Nice.

SusanR: agrees..3rd graders. possibly 2nd

PamB: What blog host do you use?

BlairCo: My little man is learning the keyboard, but this is too much for him.

BlairCo: I installed WordPress on a server I manage.

BlairCo: My son would rather record a video of himself and email it to the grandparents. We do audio files too.

PamB: This would be perfect for middle schoolers and up when working in groups...collecting notes, writing group reports, etc.

BlairCo: We use Blackboard on campus, but at the moment the students have to edit individual files and then someone puts it all together. This would be much more collaborative.

EmilyA: Students could write stories collaboratively or they could edit each others' stories. There are infinite ways to incorporate this into the classroom. I would love to use this in my classroom even if it is only among teachers.

PamB: I'm glad you like it. I thought it was pretty good.

BlairCo: I imagine it is not ink-enabled, as we are going to tablet program and that would be really cool if the kids could write their pieces with the pen.

BJB2: Emily, one way to use it with Kinders would be to type words with missing letters

PamB: Let's look at the other tool...for organizing notes when searching the Internet.

EmilyA: Thank you. That is a great idea. I will have to play with it.

PamB: What tablet are you going to use...I have been playing with the HP

BlairCo: Thanks for the tip. I'll be looking into this further.

BlairCo: All our teachers have the Toshiba Tecra M4.

BlairCo: We have a pilot group of 27 students also.

PamB: Would you recommend it?

SusanR excuses herself quietly and tiptoes out to exercise class..Thanks

BlairCo: Yes, it is a fantastic machine. Very robust. The only drawback is the battery life, but that is an issue with all of them.

PamB: I find the HP heavy and the screen could be larger.

BlairCo: I'm sitting on the back patio typing away on it right now.

PamB: But I always want more.

BlairCo: The M4 is a 14" screen and weighs about 6 lbs

PamB: I'm jealous- it's pouring rain in NY

PamB: Well, our next tool is web note

PamB: you can create little notes in different colors...

PamB: and then organize them by easily moving them around the screen

PamB: Let's try it...

PamB: The URL is <http://aypwip.org/webnote>

BlairCo: Interesting idea. I don't find it as cool as the previous tool - but that is just for my school.

BlairCo: With tablets we will have other tools for doing this type of collaboration.

EmilyA: I would love to use this in my graduate classes.

PamB: I found it be helpful when I need to take quick notes on one topic when I'm searching different web sites. I keep it open in another window and cut and paste...then organize later.

PaulaJo: I could see using it there, but not in my classroom

PaulaJo: That is a good idea!

PamB: What grade so you teach, Paula?

PaulaJo: I also teach Kindergarten.

EmilyA: Pam, your idea had not occurred to me. I think that would be a great way to keep files on individual web sites.

PamB: Ohh. I agree.

BlairCo: You should take a look at Microsoft OneNote, it allows you to take notes, send web pages to OneNote, and you can print other documents into OneNote and then organize the files later.

EmilyA: That would be great also.

PamB: There is also a program Quick Notes Plus..

PamB: it's not free but very handy.

PamB: You can attach little sticky notes to different websites and only you can see them.

PamB: and notes on your desktop too.

PamB: A friend uses it and was telling me about it

EmilyA: I have never used that program before. That would be a wonderful way to remember what exactly you want to use on a particular website.

PamB: I agree.

PamB: Anytime we can encourage to collaborate or to help them organize information is good.

PamB: Do you think kids would be able to switch from index card notes to Web note?

PaulaJo: I agree. Collaboration is a very important part of learning.

PaulaJo: Much quicker than I could!

PamB laughs

BJB2 . o O (many stores don't even carry index cards any more!)

BlairCo: That looks like a neat tool. The tablets have sticky notes software, but they are not intelligent with what web page you are on.

EmilyA: I think it would definitely be a good thing to teach; seeing as how society is quickly moving in this direction.

PamB: digital natives like these tools (;>

EmilyA laughs

PamB: Have you read any article by Marc Prensky?

PamB: He writes about digital natives and digital immigrants

BlairCo: the name sounds familiar, but nothing jumps to mind.

EmilyA: No, I haven't. But I would classify myself as a digital immigrant!

PaulaJo laughs

PamB: A teacher I met recently told me she was still on the boat.

BlairCo: Ah yes, the game guy.

BJB2: Marc also does a lot with games

BJB2 nods to Blair

PamB: yes, very cool learning games

BJB2: on a related note, take a look at Tom Friedman's The World is Flat

EmilyA: Where would I find his writings and games?

BJB2 . o O (related to digital natives)

BJB2: google him, Emily

EmilyA: Thanks.

PamB: I'm reading it right now...just on chapter two

BlairCo: I read a note about that book a little while ago on one of the blogs I watch.

BlairCo: <http://www.marcprensky.com/>

EmilyA: I wrote it down. Thanks!

PamB: I did a keynote on digital literacy and that stuff a few weeks ago in PA...

PamB: and put up a page on my site with lots of article and research...

PamB: including Prensky's article, if you are interested..

EmilyA: I will definitely take a look at it.

PamB: go to <http://www.infosearcher.com> and scroll down the left side to Digital Literacy

PamB: It's called What is Digital Literacy? has lots of interesting resources listed.

PamB: Well, it's almost time. Thanks for coming. I enjoyed talking to you.

BlairCo: Nice site. I'll pass it along to the head of our Information Commons, she'll probably find it very interesting. She's always on the lookout for new online resources and tools.

PamB: Thanks.

EmilyA: Thank you very much. Have a great evening.

PamB: I hope you'll come back next month.

PaulaJo: Thank you.

PamB: Good night

EmilyA: Good night.

BlairCo: Thanks. Good night.

PaulaJo: Good night.

BJB2 hugs Pam. Thanks!