

Title of Session: Web 2.0 Tools
Moderator: Lynne Wolters
Title of File: 20060420web20tools
Date: April 20, 2006

Room: After School Online

LynneW: While we are waiting...please everyone download the Web 2.0 Resources document available in this room.

MichelleRM: I didn't know that you could make the font larger - thanks Lynn that really helps! All this time I have been reading small text during discussions

SeanMa: Thanks for the document, I'll duck out for a moment and take a read.

LynneW: Let's start with introductions. My name is Lynne Wolters. I am an assistant professor of educational technology at Concordia University, Portland, OR

HeatherBu: I'm a middle school tech teacher in a rural district in Texas.

LynneW: Welcome

HeatherBu: Thanks

SeanMa: edTech consultant in northern Minnesota.

LynneW: Welcome

MichelleRM: My name is Michelle and I am a pre-service teacher at the University of Houston in Houston, TX. I am graduating in 3 weeks and will begin teaching in August. My area is 4th - 8th grade science.

MattE: I am a high school teacher in northern MN.

LynneW: Congratulations and welcome Michelle

MichelleRM: Thanks.

LynneW: Welcome Matt

LynneW: What do you teach Matt?

MattE: Business, technology and careers.

LynneW: Great.

LynneW: Jeff?

HeatherBu . o O (Michelle, if you are interested in working in a small middle school, give me a ring!)

JeffC: Hi, I'm Jeff Cooper, Tapped In Helpdesk and in Forest Grove Oregon (near Lynne).

SeanMa: Thanks for the document Lynn, web based applications are the most exciting topic I've been able to focus on over the last year.

JeffC: I teach Computer Applications in Sebastian Florida

LynneW: There is a document with embedded links that I have created. It is available in this room. Please download it.

LynneW: I am interested to know from each of you what you hope to gain from investing in this session.

SeanMa: More ideas of what's out there and how it's being used in education.

LynneW: Great

LynneW: Anyone else?

HeatherBu: How to make these tools work for me and my students

MichelleRM: I am big on finding ideas and tools to use in my classroom once I begin to teach - and I think the internet is an awesome resource....anything that will help me be a better teacher and help my students achieve....

JeffC: I am a returnee from last month and ready to suck up more information

MattE: I am trying out Tapped In for the first time and thought this would be an interesting topic.

LynneW laughs with joy

LynneW: Let's start with what you know about Web 2.0

LynneW: Anybody have a sense of it?

SeanMa: Read write web... web based applications, am I on the right track?

JeffC: more flexible and more interactive

LynneW: Yes YES!

MichelleRM: I had never heard of it before today

LynneW: This is a definite movement toward an empowerment of the individual user

LynneW: Web 2.0 is also becoming a very different business model

LynneW: With interesting implications

JeffC: they are?????????

LynneW: The resources we will be exploring today are all free.

LynneW: Most of them also require a registration process.

JeffC: The registration process is to cut down SPAM?

JoelRo: Had some problems with my browser

LynneW: Since we can't take the time to register at these sites, I'll talk to you about them.

LynneW: Yes

SeanMa: I've been amazed at what is available at no cost to add your content to the internet. Some of your list was familiar but most I haven't heard of.

LynneW: Welcome Joel. Would you like to introduce yourself?

MichelleRM: So is Web 2.0 an actual different internet structure...or is it just a name for the new internet age?

JoelRo: Thank you

LynneW: Web 2.0 is a new way of thinking and interacting and includes new capabilities, new types of application coding. You will see a great deal of emphasis on social networking, collaboration

JoelRo: I am an algebra teacher in Wichita Falls TX and enrolled in a masters program at Midwestern state university

LynneW: Developers are making these applications so easy to use, you no longer need to buy many software applications.

JoelRo: Curriculum and instructions to be exact

LynneW: Wonderful Joel.

LynneW: I am going to project a web site to you.

JoelRo: Awesome

LynneW: That means a new browser window will open to the web site I want to take you to.

LynneW: Turn off your pop-up blockers.

JoelRo: ok

LynneW: This site is not on the list. Please add it.

LynneW: The site is called Thinkfree

JeffC: Is there anyone who needs help allowing popups from this site?

LynneW: It is an MS Office applications mirror online. It is free, gives you 30MB storage space for free, and allows free conversions to .pdf

LynneW projects <http://www.thinkfree.com>

LynneW: Upper right hand corner

LynneW: I have created screen captures of what these applications and their user interface look like.

LynneW: However, I am not able to upload documents in this room.

LynneW: I also did the same thing for several other resources.

LynneW: If you would like me to email these documents to you, I would be happy to do so.

LynneW: Each of these applications has all the capabilities of Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

JeffC: Thinkfree is a free online office application, but they encourage you to download their Thinkfree Office for 30 days free trial. Question: Why not use Open Office or Star Office on your computer and Thinkfree online... wouldn't everything be 100% free then?

LynneW: This is particularly wonderful for our students who may not be able to afford these software programs at home.

HeatherBu: and they have a portable version?

LynneW: Thinkfree Office is for organizations. The free online version is for individuals.

LynneW: Thinkfree online means students can access their documents from wherever they are.

LynneW: Say you assign a PowerPoint presentation and they don't have a jump drive or CD burner to bring it to school.

LynneW: They can create their PowerPoint here and then download and/or present their presentation from Thinkfree online.

HeatherBu . o O (great for History or Science Fair projects.)

SeanMa: so the application is run online as well as document storage and organization?

LynneW: Exactly

LynneW: Yes

MichelleRM . o O (Wow! This is cool!)

JeffC: I normally have them email it to me, but this way I would not have to handle it

LynneW: There are some files that must be downloaded to your local computer but they are small and go quickly. This is a one time only.

JoelRo: Awesome!!!

HeatherBu . o O (caveat: it requires an email address)

SeanMa: I looked at OpenOffice prior, are there drawbacks to thinkfree that you are aware of?

LynneW: Yes, you must register so you can authenticate yourself as a real user and not a bot

LynneW: OpenOffice is great if you want to host the software and maintain it on your own machine.

JoelRo: also, after the 30 day trial what future cost are incurred

LynneW: The point is....Web 2.0 allows you to have the same capabilities without having to download or manage the software.

LynneW: There is no time limit on Thinkfree for the online use.

LynneW: It is free

JoelRo: cool

LynneW: You don't have to engage the 30-day free trial.

SeanMa: I've had good experiences with our networks in my area over the past five years... do others have the same experience?

JeffC: free is good

HeatherBu: Free is very good!

LynneW: What about Sean's question?

LynneW: Sean, what in particular are you thinking? Fast connections, reliable??

SeanMa: Down time and connection speeds....

JeffC: I think the individual district networks are getting more stable if that is what you mean

LynneW: Are you ready for another resource?

SeanMa: Yep.

HeatherBu: Please

JeffC: My house is networked with Macintoshes

JoelRo: right on

MichelleRM: Definitely.

MichelleRM: Keep em coming!

LynneW: 30 boxes is an online calendaring application. It allows you to designate who can access the calendar and who can add items to it.

JeffC: I will drop out and write a webquest for class. Thanks for the information

LynneW projects <http://www.30boxes.com>

SeanMa: any similarities to the 4teachers.org calendar tool?

LynneW: It has been a while since I looked at that resource. I'm not sure.

LynneW: This is good for students and/or families to stay connected with each other's schedules.

SeanMa: it looks similar but better aesthetics and options.

LynneW: Also good for co-curricular activities and classroom events, dates, deadlines.

LynneW: Teachers use this as a tool for parents to stay in touch with what was covered in a particular day and what is due and when.

LynneW: Also for field trip announcements, calls for volunteers, etc.

SeanMa: Can you add links and documents to the calendar?

LynneW: Good question. I haven't tried.

SeanMa: I would guess that you can. My hosting company Bluehost has an open-source calendar that you can install, similar to this but on your own space.

JoelRo: that's great for keeping up with test and quizzes

LynneW: You can make links to web pages on any entry.

LynneW: Are you ready for another resource?

SeanMa: yes

JoelRo: yep

HeatherBu nods

MattE: yes

LynneW: This one has been around for awhile - Casa Notes for Teachers

LynneW projects <http://casanotes.4teachers.org/>

LynneW: Please take a look at the previews for some of these that interest you.

LynneW: You will note that there is a Spanish option available

LynneW: What do you think?

HeatherBu: Looks great

MichelleRM: It's a great resource - it makes creating notes so easy.

LynneW: Teacher productivity is important. Leaves you with some time for breathing!

JoelRo: All the template are there and ready to use

LynneW: Are you ready for yet another resource?

SeanMa: yep

MichelleRM: Yes

HeatherBu: Let's go

MattE: I have to leave. Thanks for the information.

LynneW: This one is very popular with students across most grade levels.

LynneW: Bye Matt. Thanks for coming.

LynneW projects <http://www.readwritethink.org/materials/comic/index.html>

JeffC: I have a Word document on my profile for 4Teachers tools... CasaNotes, Trackstar, etc.

JeffC: Just wanted to share that... it has links to all the tools from ALTEC. Click my name in the Here tab, then click the little "i" in the green circle to pull up my profile, then scroll down to Shared Files.

LynneW: Thank you for making that resource available Jeff.

HeatherBu taps toe, waiting for sloooooow dialup

LynneW: Heather it is a comic creator application online.

HeatherBu: I see. It finally loaded. Great for our school newspaper crew!

MichelleRM . o O (looks like somebody needs high speed internet)

LynneW: I have seen some interesting uses for this application. Helping children identify feelings, work out disagreements or non-productive behaviors, synthesize new information, share what they have learned in a particular lesson or unit.

MichelleRM giggling

MichelleRM: That's a great idea Lynne...I would have never thought to use it that way...

HeatherBu . o O (one of the joys of living in the country...no highspeed)

JoelRo: Nice

LynneW: Here is one of the last resources we will be looking at today.

MichelleRM . o O (bummer!)

LynneW projects

http://interactives.mped.org/view_interactive.aspx?id=110&title=

LynneW: Online application for creating brochures, newspapers, booklets, and flyers.

LynneW projects

http://interactives.mped.org/view_interactive.aspx?id=110&title=

LynneW: The application allows for design template choices, modification of colors, etc.

LynneW: Are you ready for one last resource?

JeffC: Is that like the last page of the Internet?

HeatherBu grins

JoelRo: we are

LynneW laughs at Jeff

MichelleRM laughs

SeanMa: yep

MichelleRM: yes ma'am

LynneW: I am hopeful you will use this list to explore these applications more thoroughly on your own. I have many other Web 2.0 resources on my ed tech news and resources blog CU-Online. Look on the left-hand side for "Teacher Tools".

LynneW projects <http://cuonline.blog-city.com>

MichelleRM: Wow!

LynneW: If you would like an email when I post new blog entries, there is a place to do so.

HeatherBu: Oh good grief. I've been reading you for months! I just passed your Grant Wrangler tip along to my Curr. Dir.!

LynneW: Well hello there!

LynneW: I'm glad you are using the resources and sharing them with others.

HeatherBu: Small world

LynneW: Any questions or comments to close our session?

JoelRo: Really good stuff!!!

MichelleRM: This was awesome - I learned some really cool tools that I didn't even know existed - time for me to definitely do some more web surfing

JoelRo: Thank you very much for the enlightenment

MichelleRM: Thank you so much!

SeanMa: Thank you for your time. Just a few links before I get going.
www.edtechwiki.org www.seanmartinson.org www.technolog4teachers.org

LynneW: Thank you Sean

HeatherBu: Thanks you! CU online <g>

SeanMa: oops, last one is: www.technology4teachers.org

LynneW: Thank you for participating with us today!

JoelRo: It was definitely a worthwhile session...I have learnt new things tonight

JoelRo: Thanks

HeatherBu waves bye to all

LynneW: Bye

MichelleRM: Bye!