

Title of Session: Frazel Features - Scrapblog

Moderator: Midge Frazel

Title of File: 20070825frazelscrapblog

Date: August 25, 2007

Room: Frazel Features Group

MarleneK: From what I've seen, it looks like a great teaching tool, as well as family fun.

MidgeF: I think it can be used to tell a digital story

MarleneK: Showcase student work.

MarleneK: Ahh finally the guy's voice on the tour is coming in clearly. Nice accent too.

MidgeF: I have no idea why he is Australian in a Miami company

MarleneK: They hired him just for the voice :)

MarleneK winks.

LudmilaS joined the room.

MidgeF: That's probably true since they are probably Spanish speaking

MidgeF: Hi, Ludmila!

LudmilaS: Hi Midge

MidgeF: Ah, a college prof. I will type carefully...

LudmilaS: Hello Susan!

LudmilaS: I am Russian!

MidgeF: I think Susan will be back in a few minutes

LudmilaS: It is my 7th year over here!

BjB : another minute or two and I'll announce, Midge

LudmilaS: I see, thank you.

MidgeF: OK BJ

MarleneK: Ludmila, did you ever work at the UNESCO school in Peraslav-Zoleski (sp)

LudmilaS: No, I didn't

LudmilaS: I am from Volggrad -- south of Russia

MarleneK: Ahh okay, same name as a teacher I met there several years ago.

MidgeF: My daughter has a little boy in her Kindergarten class that no one can talk to. I think he speaks Russian

MarleneK: Wow this tour is great, it makes it look so easy! I hope I can be as creative.

MidgeF: Actually that's the first thing I was going to have everyone do so you are ahead.

MarleneK: I'm only half way through.. so maybe just a pinch ahead.

DavidW joined the room.

MidgeF: OK!

MidgeF: OK I will start.

MidgeF: This is the first Frazel Features of the new school year

DavidW: Hi, Midge

MidgeF: I decided to show Scrapblog as I think it is fairly easy to use and is flexible enough for any curriculum area

MidgeF: My friend Kathy Schrock showed it to me last winter and it was not as good as it is now

MidgeF: One thing you should know

MidgeF: Because it has the word blog in the URL, you may find it is blocked by the filter in some schools

MidgeF: It doesn't require registration which is good for school environments but you will need to register to get the full benefits from it

MidgeF: First, I'd like you to go to my Web site

MidgeF: <http://www.MidgeFrazel.net>

MidgeF: and click on the link that says My Photos @ Flickr

MidgeF: Let me know if you have any trouble

LudmilaS: Do we use the link here in the chat?

LudmilaS: It didn't bring me to the site :(

MidgeF: You can or you can type it in another browser window

MidgeF: You can press the Ctrl key while you click

MidgeF: the URL in the chat window

DavidW: You may need to allow pop-ups from tappedin.org, Ludmilla (turn off your pop-up blocker) ...

LudmilaS: I am on your site! :)

DavidW: . o O (or, as Midge says, hold the CONTROL Key and click)

MidgeF: Oh, yes, I forgot about that. Thanks David.

MidgeF: Good! At the top under Featured Links, click the first link

LudmilaS: I am with you!

MidgeF: Good! I wanted you to see that Scrapblog works with other Web 2.0 applications

MarleneK: Wow so instead of putting just photos on Flickr, you can put on a whole scrapblog.

MidgeF: The album on the right contains a few slides I made with scrapblog and sent to my flickr

MidgeF: Yes, what it does is it sends them as a photo (a .jpg) which means you can print them and make a real scrapbook

MidgeF: I have not had stuff printed via Flickr but you can, I think

MidgeF: Anyway, there are two scrapblogs I have made. The other is American Revolution a ways down on the page

MidgeF: They are my vacation pics! I am a history lover

MidgeF: OK

MidgeF: Scrapblog has a tour that is voice and movie based at the bottom of the main screen.

MidgeF: that's at <http://www.scrapblog.com>

MidgeF: You can do that now or wait until another time

MidgeF: I am going to be quiet a minute so you can get caught up. Let me know when you are back

LudmilaS: I explored this site when I saw the announcement to your workshop

MidgeF: Good, that's the exact right thing to do! We hope people do that so they get more out of the chat.

LudmilaS: It is really fascinating what you can do!

MidgeF: Marlene are you here?

MidgeF: Well, she's having fun at Flickr I expect

MarleneK: Yes :)

MidgeF: By the way, at my Flickr are my gravestone photos of my ancestors. In case you were wondering

MidgeF: That's OK . I am not really a weirdo!

DavidW: Do you do rubbings off gravestones, too, Midge?

MidgeF: David will disagree. He's met me

DavidW pays homage to Midge's ancestors

MidgeF: Rubbings are illegal in many states but I have done it when people did that

MarleneK: I just clicked on to load the scrapblog building and it really makes my communication here lag.. so don't worry if I'm slow at responding, go right on ahead, I'm with you :)

MidgeF: Now we have digital cameras

MidgeF: Yes, all the Web 2.0 tools are Web dependant and are meant for fast Internet connection

MidgeF: There is talk of some making their apps downloadable. For a fee, I imagine

MidgeF: Well, let me tell you about Scrapblog.

MidgeF: It is a small company in Florida. I think many of the people who work there speak several languages

MidgeF: I have noticed some of the Scrapblogs reflect this which makes this a great collaborative tool

MidgeF: The idea is simple. Choose to make one from a template that is thematic or make one from a blank page

MidgeF: I have made one of each. I thought the blank one was easier.

MidgeF: That was a surprise. Usually a pre-made one is faster to learn with.

MidgeF: Either way, you must save your Scrapblog frequently

DavidW: because?

MidgeF: And, when you are "done" then you Publish it

LudmilaS: I played with the tools too. I started a scrapblog "Teaching to the Future" I didn't publish it yet...

MidgeF: Because it is a Web 2.0 app, it takes a lot of system power from your computer.

MarleneK: If you save, can you still edit later? And once you publish, can you edit, or do you have to delete and start again?

MidgeF: Many people are not saving them first before they publish it.

MarleneK: Can you delete after it's published?

MidgeF: Yes, if you save it..you can go back and edit it. I always try that first with something I call a trial run

MidgeF: You can delete them too.

MidgeF: When you are done, it will give you a URL so you can show off your creations.

MidgeF: <http://www.scrapblog.com/MidgeFrazel/5C97D487-60FD>

MidgeF: As you can see by this URL, each scrapblog is a number and letter output

MidgeF: You can see my scrapblogs by just using the scrapblog URL and my name all squished up

MidgeF: Does that make sense to you?

MarleneK nods.

MidgeF: Marlene I have not deleted a published one as yet

MidgeF: But I will make that down on my notes to try.

MarleneK: Can you edit, after it's published?

MidgeF: No, I think you must start over.

MarleneK: They might change that as they grow :)

MidgeF: I made the wedding one in about 15 minutes, previewed it, saved it and published it

MidgeF: Uploading your own photos does take time

MidgeF: The wedding photos I did not make smaller to test it and it took a while.

MarleneK: Can you add blank pages into a themed book?

MidgeF: The one I made it photos at Flickr were faster.

MidgeF: Hmm...I think so. You can remove all the stuff on a page. I did that.

MarleneK nods.

MidgeF: I always mess up on purpose when using something new

MidgeF: I tried to drag and drop photos as suggested and they didn't go where I wanted because something like a frame

SusanMS listens

MidgeF: was on the top of the photo. Things on the theme ones are layered

MidgeF: I also had trouble with the text boxes. I had to work hard to change the text font

MidgeF: But, if you try out things on a saved scrapblog, it gets easier.

MidgeF: The transitions and the music are easy.

MidgeF: Compared to other applications.

MidgeF: one really hard thing was the links

MarleneK: There are transitions and music too.. ohhh I didn't explore that yet, very cool :)

MidgeF: You can link to a Web page but it is a link to an object and not to text

MidgeF: I have a question into their help about that since that was not obvious

MidgeF: I liked putting the finished product into Flickr as I can see how many people have viewed each resulting page.

LudmilaS: It takes time to explore and become comfortable with the tools. I had hard times to move the pictures. I chose a portfolio template so that I would use it for my Methods class with the grad students

MidgeF: Most of the people I have "met" at Scrapblog are young and love this type of creative app

MidgeF: Yes, I like that idea. I want to put eportfolios in my next book.

LudmilaS: The same feature would be on del.icio.us

MidgeF: No one in my grad program was brave enough to make a video portfolio but I thought it was fun

MidgeF: But, these things are time consuming.

LudmilaS: Oh yes, especially in the beginning!

MidgeF: I am using del.icio.us to manage my research for my writing now.

MidgeF: and Google Notebook too

LudmilaS: I use it too

LudmilaS: very handy!

MidgeF: I am doing a Google "thing" next month

MarleneK: The photo upload takes time.. especially during this time of day.. something I'd try later on in the evening perhaps

MidgeF: Yes, or Sundays

DavidW . o O (keep the file size small, if possible - speedier for people to view the photos, as well)

MidgeF: Sometimes, I have four computers on in the house here and things get slow.....

MidgeF: I like Picnik for my image manipulation.

MidgeF: Flickr will "squish" my big photos down for me.

SusanMS . o O (thanks David for the photo size tip)

MidgeF: Yes, David is smart and cute

MarleneK: Scrapblog seems to be compatible with my Mac, which is nice :)

DavidW smiles

MidgeF: That's good to know...I am a Windows user now but used to be Mac

MidgeF: I tend to focus on what works with Windows since Mac people have a better flair for creative stuff

SusanMS: Is the image manipulation quick on the Picnic site

MidgeF: In my grad classes, the pros used Macs and most all the students used Windows.

DavidW . o O (the GREAT divide)

MidgeF: Yes, not bad. Picnik is a good app since they are offering a paid version

MidgeF: They tell me the basics will stay free

SusanMS: I like the way it resizes images, Midge

MarleneK: When you register, what extra benefits do you get?

MidgeF: People are trying to get people away from using Photoshop due to its expense

MidgeF: Nothing really, I think they offer that so you can use the ability to use the other Web 2.0 tools.

MidgeF: Most use a registration system, but still even without it so much of the new and

free stuff is blocked at schools

MidgeF: Questions?

MidgeF: I tried to keep this simple so you could try it. I tend to get carried away....

LudmilaS: It would be nice to see some rich, interesting examples of educational scapblogs

DavidW: What does Scrapblog offer, Midge, that made it compelling for you to investigate?

MarleneK: I like how it allows you to browse and select a whole bunch of photos.. I don't like how it lines them up in reverse order then what you downloaded them in.

MidgeF: I have subscribed to their blog to find out tips and hints

MidgeF: Well, the sidebar, which they call an asset tray could use some work.

MidgeF: Notice, that my pages ported to Flickr are in reverse order

MidgeF: You can shift-click multiple images to bring them in

MidgeF: Oh, I see David's question

DavidW smiles

MidgeF: I am writing a book proposal for digital storytelling and am gathering ideas for that.

MidgeF: I think that many teachers are afraid of the Web 2.0 tools as they must be online to use them

MarleneK: Midge thank you for taking the time to introduce us to scrapblog and walk us through it. I always love learning new things, especially here at Tapped In :) I will be playing with it... and getting less sleep because of it all.. but that is a good thing ;)

MidgeF: I am not responsible for less sleep. I go to bed at 9PM

MidgeF: I learned to do that when I first went online

LudmilaS: Thank you Midge! Good luck with your book!

DavidW smiles

MidgeF: Thanks. I am glad you liked it. I will include this as a choice in a chapter.

MarleneK: Midge I think you are correct in that assumption. School networks can be unreliable at times.. and once you book the computer lab and have 30 excited kids in there, it can be difficult if the network is down.

MidgeF: You are all released back to your own life

BjB smiles. Thanks, Midge

DavidW: Thanks, Midge

MidgeF: Tapped In is a fun place

SusanMS: Midge, I spent two days as a background performer in a film. I had to snap photos quite quickly. I do want to use Piknik for the editing and scrablog of course,

SusanMS: Thanks, Midge

LudmilaS: Thanks, Midge! :-)

MidgeF: Cool

MidgeF: Good night and email me with finished scrapblogs